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Mayor Eric Garcetti

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LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses

By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from "Jane the Virgin," Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"The strike has strong support across the board," said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. "These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life."

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

"We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home," Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing $10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost $25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That's a net loss of $15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

"Very little in the way of educational activity," Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. "At one point, they tried to show the movie 'Christopher Robin,' but the sound quality was so bad it couldn't be understood. Couldn't read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything."

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. "We kept him home today," she said of her son, "and probably will for the rest of the week."

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers "heroes."

"Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids' side," García said. "We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike."

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

"As I've said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I'll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this," he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

"This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles," said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of "looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We've got to change that."

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad

in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times
In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with

the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times
Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposalunveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because

the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses … all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child … gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: The Hill, Daily Mail

LA Daily News
LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost $25 million in attendance, but saved $10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher rentention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about $25 million, and saved $10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates $68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and

librarians. https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464 …

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing … We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA – skeptical of claims that the district's $1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reitereated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At at school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution … in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that LosAngeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says $15 million was lost by the district yesterday: $25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved $10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLAnow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: KNX 1070

Reuters
Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion
Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and

infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: Telemundo

Reuters
Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinitiate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president

of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost $130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost $800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages $75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News
'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly $9 billion and L.A. Unified has $1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which includedactions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with $1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether its a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times
With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodmon, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st

Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,' " said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News
Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall
By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist
LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco
'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take

my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and a led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group
As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest

services."

The warrant also seeks "all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors" and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others "assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, "the scandal is what's legal."

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used "straw donors" to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave $60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The "Committee for a Safer Los Angeles" was an entity called an "independent expenditure committee." Garcetti's adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was "barely aware" of it and had "nothing" to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of "behested payments," unlimited contributions that are made at the "behest" of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has "behested" over $41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for $1 million to the "Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles," and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave $3 million to the "Los Angeles Parks Foundation" at Garcetti's request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price "behested" over $245,000 for the "Coalition for Responsible Community Development," which has a stated mission to "improve local planning."

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he'd have a building named after him.

LA Times
Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than $1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly $2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than $1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that's about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for

three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really "cost-neutral" as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential reportfrom then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, "because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants."

"It's frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on," said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. "The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments," Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight
How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an "inevitable" frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.1

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our "five corners" series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The "five corners" refers to what we claim are the the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters2; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three

of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid.What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a

large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries3 could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press
Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and $25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a

magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

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DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

—

DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

—

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist
Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend
By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch#WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothepolls.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own -- let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...

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Eric Garcetti #lamayor

Cate Hurley | **Communications**
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-0741 (Office)

Connect Create Collaborate

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Fwd: Los Angeles 25 Years Later

3 messages

Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 9:17 PM
To: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>, Naomi Seligman <naomi.seligman@lacity.org>
Cc: Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Alarcon, Alejandra <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu>
Date: Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 5:01 PM
Subject: Los Angeles 25 Years Later
To: Ana Guerrero (ana.guerrero@lacity.org) <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

Dear Ms. Guerrero,

On behalf of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, we invite you to participate in a panel discussion at our upcoming event, **Los Angeles, 25 Years Later**, reflecting on the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Loyola Marymount University. The panel discussion will be from 5:00pm to 6:00pm with a 45-minute discussion and a 15-minute Q&A session.

Following the event, we would be honored to have you join us for a cocktail reception celebrating StudyLA's 20th anniversary. We have enclosed a letter with more details about the event and the reception. We look forward to hearing if you will be able to join us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alejandra

Alejandra Alarcon

Research Coordinator,
Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles

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Email alejandra.alarcon@lmu.edu

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Eric Garcetti #Iamayor

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

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2 attachments

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Invitation to Los Angeles 25 Years Later - Ms. Ana Guerrero.pdf
45K

Naomi Seligman <naomi.seligman@lacity.org> Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 10:42 PM
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>, Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>

[redacted]
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Naomi Seligman
Director of Communications
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213 978 1649 (office)
[redacted] (mobile)
@naomiseligman

Eric Garcetti
#lamayor

Caesar Cereceres <caesar.cereceres@lacity.org> Mon, Apr 3, 2017 at 1:39 PM
To: "Alarcon, Alejandra" <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu>
Cc: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Hello Alejandra,

I hope this finds you well. On behalf of Ana, I am confirming her participation for the upcoming "Los Angeles, 25 Year Later" panel slated for Wednesday, April 26th. Additionally, I have copied my colleague, Jayanthi, on this email thread as she works for the Chief of Staff's Office and will assist with any further logistical components as it relates to this upcoming panel. Please provide any additional information as it relates to the program's agenda, as soon as it becomes available on your end.

Best regards,

On Mon, Apr 3, 2017 at 10:16 AM, Alarcon, Alejandra <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu> wrote:

> Hello Caesar,
>
> I am following up on a conversation from last week between Ana and Fernando Guerra, Director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University. Fernando spoke to Ana about the invitation to our upcoming event, **Los Angeles, 25 Years Later**. Ana expressed interest in participating as a panelist but asked that we follow up with you to confirm her availability. We would love to have our invitation out this afternoon. Would it be possible to confirm? Please feel welcome to give me a call if you would like to further discuss.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Alejandra
>
> **Alejandra Alarcon**
>
> **Research Coordinator,**
> **Thomas and Dorothy Leavey**
> **Center for the Study of Los Angeles**
>
> University Hall 4119
> 1 LMU Drive
> Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
> www.lmu.edu/studyLA | Privacy + Legal
>
> **Office** 310.338.4565

Mobile [redacted]

Email alejandra.alarcon@lmu.edu

LMU | LA
Loyola Marymount University

From: Alarcon, Alejandra
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:02 PM
To: 'Ana Guerrero (ana.guerrero@lacity.org)'
Subject: Los Angeles 25 Years Later

Dear Ms. Guerrero,

On behalf of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, we invite you to participate in a panel discussion at our upcoming event, **Los Angeles, 25 Years Later**, reflecting on the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Loyola Marymount University. The panel discussion will be from 5:00pm to 6:00pm with a 45-minute discussion and a 15-minute Q&A session.

Following the event, we would be honored to have you join us for a cocktail reception celebrating StudyLA's 20th anniversary. We have enclosed a letter with more details about the event and the reception. We look forward to hearing if you will be able to join us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alejandra

Alejandra Alarcon

Research Coordinator,

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Email alejandra.alarcon@lmu.edu



LMU | LA
Loyola Marymount University

--

Caesar D. Cereceres | **Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff**
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 North Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Connect Create Collaborate

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Information about Wednesday's Panel with Ana Guerrero --

12 messages

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org> Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 10:07 AM
To: Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu, "Alarcon, Alejandra" <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu>
Cc: "Cereceres, Caesar" <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>

Dear all,

I work with Chief of Staff Ana Guerrero in Mayor Garcetti's office: I hope you're well.

Our office has not received any information about this Wednesday's LA Uprising panel at LMU. I need to brief Ana before her participation so that we are prepared with arrival and parking information, seating and audience information, and talking points that we need to prepare Ana for.

Considering how close the panel is, I am quite concerned about having enough time in advance to brief Ana.

Please expedite to our offices any information that you have about Ana's participation. I understand your entire event to last from 5 pm to 8 pm: I need to plan when Ana is arriving and leaving, as her calendar on Wednesday is quickly booking up.

If you have time today to speak on the phone, I am available until 4 pm. Thank you.

Jayanthi

--

Eric Garcetti #lamayor
Jayanthi Daniel | **David Bohnett Fellow, Office of the Chief of Staff**
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Alarcon, Alejandra <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu> Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 1:18 PM
To: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>, "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>
Cc: "Cereceres, Caesar" <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>

Hello Jayanthi,

We appreciate your patience in getting this information and these materials back to you. I have included our complete event program, parking information and other logistics, a promotional flyer with brief speaker biographies, and the final versions of the two booklets we will hand out to all guests at the event. The "Reflection" booklet includes the data points we would like for panelists to use as talking points. I will give you a call shortly to confirm that you have received this information and to answer any follow-up questions you may have.

Thank you,

Alejandra

Alejandra Alarcon

Research Coordinator,
Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles

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Office 310.338.4565

Mobile [redacted]

Email alejandra.alarcon@lmu.edu



Loyola Marymount University

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6 attachments

- **Campus Map.pdf** 8899K
- **Life Sciences Building Auditorium Layout.pdf** 28K
- **Reflection & Celebration - (Celebration) Event Booklet.pdf** 706K
- **Reflection & Celebration - (Reflection) Event Booklet.pdf** 137K
- **Reflection & Celebration - Program and Logistics.pdf** 336K
- **Reflection & Celebration - Speaker Biographies.pdf** 151K

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacitv.org> Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 2:54 PM

To: Yena Ji <yena.ji@lacity.org>

Dear Yena,

I finally received follow-up information from LMU regarding Wednesday's panel. I hope you find this information helpful!

Best,

Jayanthi
[Quoted text hidden]

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6 attachments

Campus Map.pdf
8899K

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Reflection & Celebration - Program and Logistics.pdf
336K

Reflection & Celebration - Speaker Biographies.pdf
151K

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org> Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 2:57 PM
To: "Alarcon, Alejandra" <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu>
Cc: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, "Cereceres, Caesar" <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>

Dear Alejandra,

Thanks for sending this information over.

In regards to the Reflection data points: I'm wondering if you can send the statistics in a format that's easier to read. Is there an Excel spreadsheet, or something of the sort, that you can send over?

I'm also confirming that, as per the content on the Reflections attachment, that the questions that Larry Mantle will be asking the panelists will be mostly about race in Los Angeles. In this case, I strongly ask to have Larry's questions sent to us in advance, preferably by the end of the day tomorrow, so that we can fully brief Ana prior to the panel.

Thank you.

Jayanthi
[Quoted text hidden]

Yena Ji <yena.ji@lacity.org> Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 3:17 PM
To: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

THank you so much Jayanthi!!!
[Quoted text hidden]
--

DAVID RYU
L.A. CITY COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 4

Yena Ji
Scheduler
Office: 213.473.7004
www.davidryu.lacity.org

Alarcon, Alejandra <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu> Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 11:38 AM
To: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>
Cc: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, "Cereceres, Caesar" <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>

Hi Jayanthi,

Are you available for a phone call today at 1:00pm? Fernando and I are both available at that time, or any time thereafter, to further discuss the data and go over questions Larry may have on Wednesday evening.

Alejandra

[Quoted text hidden]

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org> Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 11:51 AM
To: Naomi Seligman <naomi.seligman@lacity.org>
Cc: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>, "Cereceres, Caesar" <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>, Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Alarcon, Alejandra** <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu>
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

[redacted]

Reflection & Celebration - (Reflection) Event Booklet.pdf
137K

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org> Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 1:06 PM
To: "Alarcon, Alejandra" <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu>

Alejandra, I'm awaiting responses from my leadership about the data set. Please stay tuned.
[Quoted text hidden]

Alarcon, Alejandra <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu> Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 1:08 PM
To: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Great! Fernando and I are ready for a call at any time, let us know when would be best to give you a call.

[Quoted text hidden]

Alarcon, Alejandra <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu> Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 3:15 PM
To: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Hello Jayanthi,

Fernando is stepping out of the office at 4:15pm today. He will be in the office at 11:00am tomorrow. Do you have a preference to when we should give you a call?

Thanks,

Alejandra

From: Jayanthi Daniel [mailto:jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 1:06 PM
To: Alarcon, Alejandra

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org> Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 3:22 PM
To: "Alarcon, Alejandra" <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu>

Hi Alejandra,

I still haven't heard from my senior leaders yet about the data set. If a call is needed, I will let you know either by tonight or tomorrow.

Thanks,

Jayanthi
[Quoted text hidden]

Alarcon, Alejandra <Alejandra.Alarcon@lmu.edu> Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 3:29 PM
To: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Great! We are more than happy to help.

[Quoted text hidden]

All Visitors Must Enter Through Lincoln Blvd Entrance

See Reverse Side for Important Information

NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

BUILDING	DESCRIPTION	MAP
BIR	Bird Nest	I-1
BLC	Baseball Lion Cage	I-10
BRC	Burns Rec Center	H-7
	BAN Burns Annex	
	BFC Burns Fac Ctr	
	Kelly Student Art Gallery	
	HGN Hogan Hall	
	LAG Laband Art Gallery	
	LEM Lemons Hall	
	MUR Murphy Recital Hall	
CPL	Central Plant	F-4
CCC	Children's Center	E-9
COM	Communication Arts	F-6
DAU	Daum Hall	J-4
DES	Desmond Hall	I-3
DHA	Daum Hall Annex	J-4
DOH	Doheny Hall	J-4
DOO	Doolan Hall	I-6
EST	East Hall	J-6
EDC	Engineering Design Ctr	J-6
FAN	Foley Annex	H-5
	Public Safety	
FMA	Facilities Management	J-7
FOL	Foley Building	H-5
	Strub Theatre	
FOU	Founders Pavilion	I-2
GER	Gersten Pavilion	H-8
HIL	Hilton Ctr for Business	E-4
LEV	Leavey Hall	F-6
LAC	Lion Athletic Center	H-9
LSB	Life Sciences Building	H-6
MAL	Malone Student Ctr	H-4
	Lair Marketplace	
	KXLU	
NOR	North Hall	J-5
	Del Rey Theatre	
PBS	Page Baseball Stadium	I-9

NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

BUILDING	DESCRIPTION	MAP
PER	Pereira Hall of Engineering	I-6
PAN	Pereira Annex	J-6
RAX	Research Annex	J-5
SHC	Sacred Heart Chapel	F-2
SEA	Seaver Science Hall	H-6
SOU	South Hall	J-5
STR	St. Roberts Hall	F-4
UNH	University Hall	A-9
	Ahmanson Auditorium	
	Lions Den Cafe	
	Roski Dining Room/Cafeteria	
VDA	Charles Von Der Ahe Building	G-5
	Admissions	
	Bookstore	
	Campus Business Services	
	tudent Financiol Services	
	Registrar's Office	
WHH	William H. Hannon Library	E-4
XAV	Xavier Hall	F-2
	Conferences	

Disabled Parking - *Parking rates apply to ADA vehicles*

Timed Space

Pay Station

Motorcycle Area

VISITOR PARKING

LOT	DESCRIPTION	MAP
A	Hannon Apts	F-9
D	Life Sciences Building	H-6
H	Del Rey Apts	J-1
I	Xavier Hall	F-2
L	Drollinger Garage	D-6
M	VDA Building (ADA)	D-7
O	Leavey Circle (ADA)	C-6
U	University Hall	A-9

These are general visitor guidelines. Read all signs carefully. Certain sections of parking facilities may be reserved.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

BUILDING	DESCRIPTION	MAP
DRN	Del Rey North Apts	I-2
DRS	Del Rey South Apts	I-2
HAN	Hannon Apts	F-8
HUE	Huesman Hall	I-4
	Deja View Theatre	
JES	Jesuit Community	I-4
LV4	Leavey 4 Apts	C-6
LV5	Leavey 5 Apts	B-7
LV6	Leavey 6 Apts	C-7
	C-Store	
MCC	McCarthy Hall	D-5
MCK	McKay Hall	F-7
	Iggy's Diner	
OMA	O'Malley Apts	C-5
RAI	Rains Hall	D-6
ROS	Rosecrans Hall	I-3
SUL	Sullivan Hall	I-5
TEN	Tenderich Hall	F-8
WHE	Whelan Hall	H-2

Students must park in accordance to their assigned Sector. See Student Sector Map for details.

Permit Required
Mon - Fri, 8 am - 8 pm
**CVC and Timed Spaces Enforced 24/7*

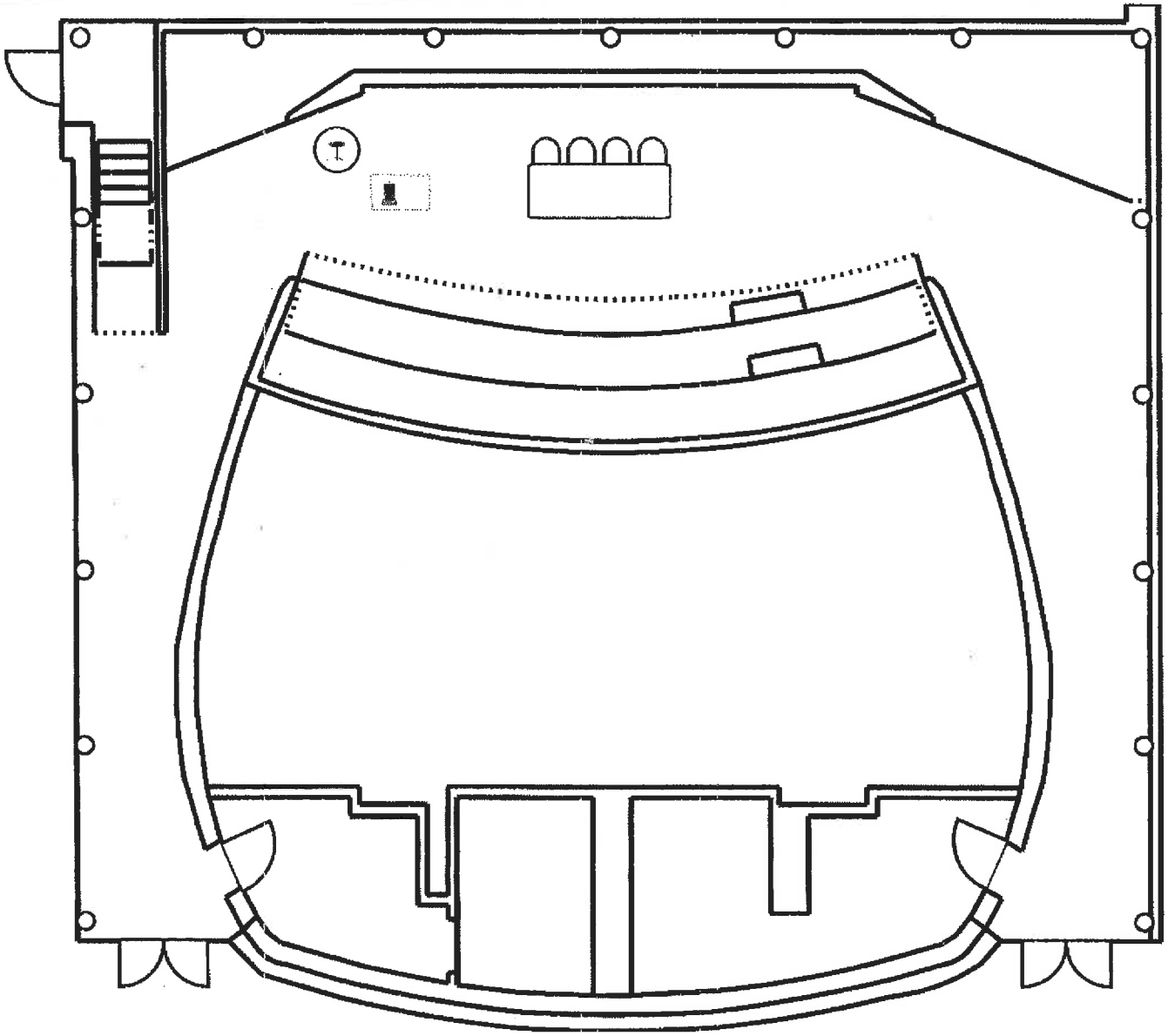
0' 200' 400'
1" = 400'

Loyola Marymount University

Department of Parking & Transportation
Office Hours: 8 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday
Office Location: University Hall, Ste 1766
Phone: (310) 338 - 1681
e-mail: parking@lmu.edu
webpage: www.lmu.edu/parking

LA Riots 25th Anniversary
2017-04-26 05:00 pm
Print Date: 2017-04-20 11:08:35
Auditorium

LMU | LA
Conference & Event Services



Equipment List

1 - 2.5ft High Top Table
1 - 8ft x 3ft Rectangle Table
4 - 18" x 18" banquet Chair
1 - 3.33ft x 2ft Podium



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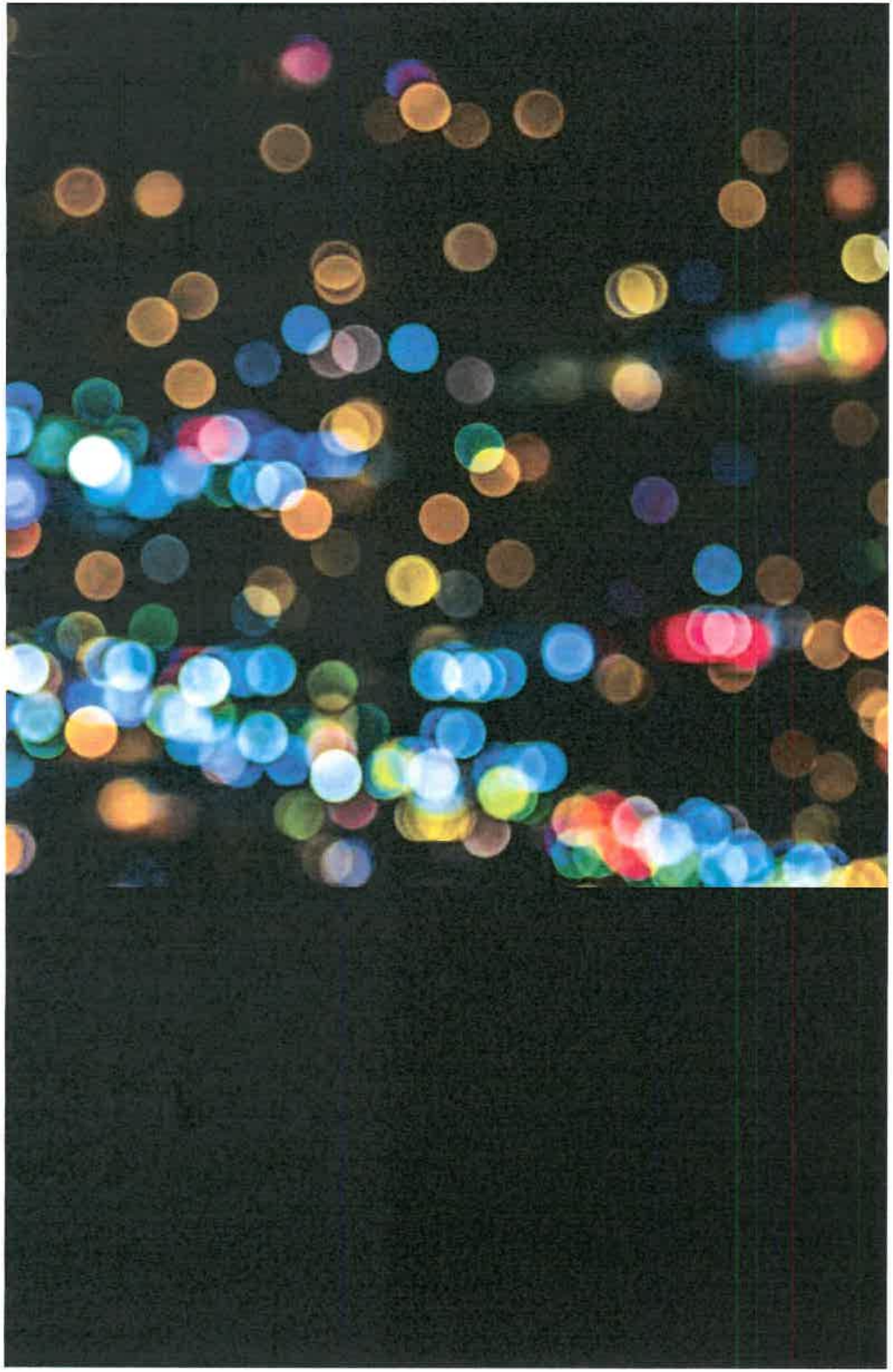
THOMAS AND DOROTHY LEAVEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY
1 LMU DRIVE, SUITE 4119
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045
310.338.4565

DESIGNED BY GINNY WARREN

An evening to reflect on 25 years after the 1992 Civil Unrest in Los Angeles and to celebrate 20 years of StudyLA at Loyola Marymount University

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Frank R. Seaver Life Sciences Building
Loyola Marymount University



Welcome to this very special evening as we reflect on a transformative event in our city's history, and at the same time celebrate the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles as the premier independent public opinion research organization studying the dynamic region of Los Angeles. The two anniversary moments we recognize tonight have been 25 and 20 years, respectively, in the making and are forever tied.

I thank the generous donations and partnerships that make the work of StudyLA, and therefore this evening, possible.

It's difficult to overestimate the lasting effect of the Civil Unrest of 1992. That's not just an opinion – thanks to the hard, unblinking research, public resources and civic awareness built by StudyLA, we know it's true.

Tonight we celebrate that research: Over a mere two decades, StudyLA has more than fulfilled its promise of studying the city where we live. In doing so, StudyLA follows its Jesuit and Marymount missions of being in the world, not just of it; and being of service, not just of existence.

We look forward to StudyLA's robust future researching an increasingly complex and vital Los Angeles. LA needs StudyLA now more than ever. I thank you for your support and passion for the work of StudyLA, and I offer my deepest congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

Steve Soboroff
Vice President, *Los Angeles Police Commission*
Chairman, *Development Council, the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles*

REFLECTION
CELEBRATION

We were there: Los Angeles in 1992

A conversation reflecting on the last 25 years in Los Angeles.

Warren Olney, Moderator
Warren Olney is a veteran broadcast journalist and the award-winning moderator of the radio program "Which Way, L.A.?"

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Panelist
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke serves on numerous federal, state, and local boards. She retired from the LA County Board of Supervisors in 2008 after serving for 17 years.

Angela Oh, Panelist
Angela Oh is an attorney, teacher, and public lecturer. She is widely respected for her role as a spokesperson for the Korean American community post-1992.

Monica Lozano, Panelist
Monica Lozano chairs the University of California Regents and the Aspen Institute's "Latinos and Society" program. She is the former publisher and editor of La Opinión.

We are here: Los Angeles in 2017

A conversation reflecting on the current state of Los Angeles and its future.

Larry Mantle, Moderator
Larry Mantle is the host of AirTalk, the longest continuously running daily talk program on Los Angeles radio.

Ana Guerrero, Panelist
Ana Guerrero is chief of staff for city of Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti.

David Ryu, Panelist
David Ryu serves as councilman for Los Angeles City District 4. He is the first Korean-American to hold a council seat in LA.

Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Panelist
Marqueece Harris-Dawson serves as a councilman for Los Angeles City District 8.

Celebrating 20 years of StudyLA

A celebration of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

Fernando J. Guerra, Host
Fernando J. Guerra is the director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles and professor at Loyola Marymount University.



A Portrait: StudyLA and its Impact on Los Angeles and California

Since 1997, the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA) at Loyola Marymount University has been the premier independent public opinion research organization studying Los Angeles. Through its research, StudyLA has served as a bellwether for regional decision-makers seeking insight into the region, its leadership, and its people. The following are some of StudyLA's major impacts, research projects, and events.

Changing the Course

StudyLA's public opinion research has led to these notable achievements:

- The California Voter Bill of Rights is the result of state legislation passed in 2003 after StudyLA's first report on polling place accessibility, conducted during that year's gubernatorial recall election. StudyLA's research found that many polling places did not meet basic accessibility requirements. The Voter Bill of Rights is now posted in California polling places.
- StudyLA was the first to call the 2013 Los Angeles election for current Mayor Eric Garcetti over major contender Wendy Greuel, beating all known professional news outlets in timing and accuracy.
- StudyLA has distributed more than 25,000 public opinion surveys of Los Angeles residents, more than any other known research center in the LA region.
- StudyLA's 2016 landmark report from the annual public opinion survey, "The Olympics in LA," was its most cited report, garnering hundreds of mentions internationally.

Signature Research

Since 1997, StudyLA has implemented and facilitated three signature research projects:

- LA Riots Anniversary Studies (1997–present): Resident surveys measuring ethnic relations in post-riot LA, surveying city of Los Angeles residents every five years.
- LA Votes Exit Poll Project (2003-present): A series of exit polls and polling place studies in Los Angeles known for the use of a breakthrough sampling methodology—the racially stratified homogenous precinct approach—and the largest per-capita exit poll nationwide.
- Forecast LA (2014-present): An annual study of LA residents and leaders that gauges their outlook for the year, and, notably, is the region's largest general social survey. A total of 169 leaders and 9,672 residents have been surveyed.

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles



Fernando J. Guerra professor of political science and Chicana/o studies, is the founding director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University. He earned his doctorate in Political Science from the University of Michigan and his B.A. from the University of Southern California. Guerra has served on standing commissions, blue ribbon committees, and ad hoc task forces for the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and regional bodies in Southern California. He is a source for the media at the local, national, and international level and has published in the area of state and local government and urban and ethnic politics.



Brianne Gilbert is the associate director for the Center for the Study of Los Angeles and a lecturer in political science and urban studies at Loyola Marymount University. She has worked on dozens of studies involving voter polls, public opinion research, and leaders/elite surveys and has served as a consultant in the fields of sociology, anthropology, GIS (geographic information systems), education, public opinion research, international affairs, geology, and medicine. She also is the author of *Statistics in the Social Sciences: Inferential Statistics as Rhetoric in Sociology*. Gilbert earned her B.A. from Wittenberg University and her M.A. from Florida International University.



Berto Solis is a research associate at the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Solis manages visual and editorial unity across the Center's print, web, and audio visual materials. He also serves as the Center's special events coordinator, promoting, planning, and executing Center activities including lectures, forums, and conferences. He mentors undergraduate students on research design and presentation skills during large-scale academic projects run by the Center. Solis earned a double B.A. in Spanish and Latin American & Iberian Studies from UC Santa Barbara.



Alejandra Alarcon is the research coordinator for the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. She serves as the Center's office manager and scheduler and is the first point of contact for Center communications. She leads the Center's undergraduate research assistants and mentors them through research projects as they continue to develop their methodological and technical skills. Her research interests include race-sex-gender studies, contemporary urban issues and community studies. Alarcon earned her B.A. in Chicana/o Studies from Loyola Marymount University.



Melissa R. Alvarenga '06 is the director of development for the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, where she develops fundraising opportunities with local partners and corporate and foundation sponsors. She ran the service learning program at Fordham University in New York and worked at Columbia Law School, USC and Cedars-Sinai to increase leadership fundraising efforts. Alvarenga earned her B.A. in English and Communication Studies from LMU. She earned her M.A. in Sociology from Fordham University.



Alex Kempler is the research assistant for the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. She helps to develop, implement, and manage all phases of StudyLA's research projects, including Forecast LA, exit polls, and new projects. She aids in qualitative and quantitative research, the preparation of research reports, and the dissemination of results. Her research interests include cultural sociology, community based studies, and social movements. Kempler earned her B.A. in Sociology from Whitman College.

The past two decades of outstanding research, thoughtful student mentorship, and contributions to the Los Angeles region would not have been possible without the support of our generous donors. Thank you for your role in making the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University the premier undergraduate research center in and of Los Angeles.



Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles

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Class of 2020

CARLOS MESA-BARON
Class of 2019

ISABELLA DENNIS
Class of 2018

ANDREW GONZALEZ
Class of 2018

ELIZABETH GUHL
Class of 2019

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Associate Director of Media and Communications Relations

LAUREN ZUCHOWSKI LONGWELL
Curator for the StudyLA Research Collections, Archives and Special Collections Department

Scholars and Fellows

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Senior Research Fellow

HON. STEVEN BRADFORD
Senior Research Fellow

MARA A. COHEN-MARKS
Senior Research Fellow

CLAUDIA SANDOVAL
Faculty Associate

MATT BARRETO
Research Scholar

STEPHEN NUÑO
Research Scholar

MAIA KRAUSE
Research Fellow

VICTOR POLANCO
Research Fellow

FRANK ROMO
Research Fellow

JONATHAN COLLINS
Graduate Research Fellow

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles' Development Council



Steve Soboroff

***Chairman**, Center for the Study of Los Angeles Development Council*
***Managing Partner**, Soboroff Partners*

Steve Soboroff is managing partner at Soboroff Partners. He serves as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Weingart Foundation, senior fellow and member of the Board of Advisors at UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, and past chairman and CEO of Playa Vista.



James Garrison

***Vice Chairman**, Center for the Study of Los Angeles Development Council*
***President**, Pacific Federal Insurance Co.*

James Garrison is president of Pacific Federal Insurance Corporation. Garrison is an executive board member of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and he has served on the board of directors at the Chamber since 2010. As a former member of the Electoral College, Garrison represented California in the 2000 presidential election.



Alex Martin Chaves '86

***CEO**, Parking Company of America Management*

Alex Chaves serves as CEO of Parking Company of America, L.L.C. He is a graduate of LMU where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration. He is currently a member of the LMU Board of Trustees and an active member of the university's Latino Alumni Association where he serves as president.



Henry Cisneros

***Founder & Chairman**, CityView*

Henry Cisneros is the co-founder and chairman of CityView. He became the first Hispanic American mayor of San Antonio, Texas in 1981. Cisneros was appointed by President Clinton to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1992. He is a current member of the advisory boards of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Broad Foundation.



Thomas Flintoft

***Founding Principal**, Kindel Gagan*

Thomas Flintoft is a founding principal of Kindel Gagan, an LA-based public affairs and lobbying firm. He is the founder and former chair of the Alumni Association of Leadership LA. Currently, Flintoft is a board member of The Los Angeles Business Council. He earned his B.A. in economics from Fordham University.



Raul Amezcua

***Managing Director**, Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc.*

Raul Amezcua is the managing director of the Stifel-California Public Finance team. Amezcua has served on the board of the PUENTE Learning Center since 2001, including a role as chairman of the Board of Directors for seven years. He earned his B.S. from USC and an M.B.A. from UCLA.



Andy Carrasco

***Director of Regional Public Affairs**, Southern California Gas Company*

Andy Carrasco is the director of regional public affairs for Southern California Gas Company. Carrasco currently serves on the Boards for the Southeast Community Development Corporation and Plaza Community Service. He earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from California State University Northridge.



Barbara Casey

***Founder & CEO**, Casey & Sayre*

Barbara Casey is founder and chairman/CEO of public relations firm Casey & Sayre. Casey started her career with KB Home, where she became a vice president. Active in civic and philanthropic involvements, she sits on numerous boards and committees. She graduated from West Virginia University where she earned a B.S. in journalism.



Ruben Gonzalez '98

***President**, Gonzalez Strategic Affairs*

Ruben Gonzalez is president of Gonzalez Strategic Affairs. He also serves as senior advisor of strategic affairs for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Gonzalez currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Eisner Pediatric and Family Medical Center Foundation Board. Gonzalez earned his B.A. in philosophy and political science from LMU.



Lisa Gritzner

***Managing Director**, State and Local Government Affairs, American Airlines*

Lisa Gritzner is managing director of state and local government affairs for American Airlines. She has served as the president of the Saban Free Clinic Board of Directors and is a member of the Founder's Board of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust. Gritzner graduated from California State University Sacramento with a B.A. in government.



Randal Hernandez

***Consultant**, Government & External Affairs, Impower, Inc.*

Randal Hernandez serves as consultant of government and external affairs for Impower, Inc. Hernandez also served as appointments secretary to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Hernandez is a graduate of Leadership Long Beach and Leadership Southern California. He earned his B.A. in economics and his M.P.A. from California State University Long Beach.



Fran Inman

Senior Vice President
Majestic Realty Co.

Fran Inman is senior vice president at Majestic Realty Co., the largest privately held developer and owner of master-planned business parks in the United States. Inman serves on a variety of business, economic development, and transportation boards and organizations throughout the region. She earned a B.A. in finance and an M.B.A. in finance from California State University Fullerton.



David O. Levine

Chief of Staff to Jerry Epstein, Spokesperson for ShoresMDR

David Levine is president of Jerry B. Epstein Management Company, LLC and has served as chief of staff to Jerry B. Epstein, a real estate developer, since 1987. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and earned his Ph.D. in American civilization from Harvard University.



Alexander Moradi

Managing Partner & Founder, *ICO Group*

Alexander Moradi is the managing member and founder of ICO. He currently serves on the Boards of the Downtown Los Angeles Fashion Business Improvement District and the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, as well as the Executive Committee of the Central City Association. Moradi earned his B.S. in business administration from USC.



George L. Pla

President & CEO, *Cordoba Corporation*

George L. Pla is president, CEO, and founder of Cordoba Corporation. Pla serves as a regent emeritus at LMU, president associate at USC, and co-founder of the USC Latino Alumni Association. He currently serves as the co-chair of the Southern California Leadership Council and is co-founder of the City Club.



Timothy G. Psomas '62

Chairman, *PSOMAS*

Timothy Psomas is chairman of the Board at Digital Map Products LLC and chairman emeritus at Psomas. He served as the American Council of Engineering Company's national chairman in 2009. Psomas also served on the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, LMU, where he earned his B.S. in engineering.



David Roberti, Esq. '61

Attorney, *David Roberti Law Office*

David Roberti is a partner at Roberti Jenson LLP. At age 26, he was elected to the California State Assembly in 1966, the youngest legislator elected into office. He was elected to State Senate in 1971, and climbed the ranks to president pro tempore from 1980 to 1994. Roberti is a graduate of LMU.



Miguel A. Santana

President & CEO, *Los Angeles County Fair Association*

Miguel A. Santana is president and CEO of the Los Angeles County Fair Association. Santana serves on the Boards of MALDEF, LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, United Way of Los Angeles and Discovery Cube Los Angeles. He formerly served as the city administrative officer for the city of LA.



Renata Simril '93

President & CEO, *LA 84 Foundation*

Renata Simril is president and CEO of the LA84 Foundation. She served as deputy mayor of economic development for the Hahn Administration, and she expanded rental and affordable housing in Los Angeles as a senior executive at Forest City Development. Simril earned her B.A. in urban studies from LMU and her Master's in real estate development from USC.



Mark Slavkin

Director of Education, *Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts*

Mark Slavkin is the director of education at Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Beverly Hills. Slavkin sat on the Los Angeles City Board of Education for eight years, and served as its president from 1994-1996. He earned his B.A. and M.A. in political science from USC.



Kevin Sloat '81

Principal & Founder, *Sloat Higgins Jensen and Associates*

Kevin Sloat is the principal and founder of Sloat Higgins Jensen and Associates, a full-service lobbying firm based in Sacramento. Sloat is highly regarded in Sacramento both as a legislative strategist and as a direct lobbyist. He has successfully guided major legislative initiatives for many large corporate and public sector clients. He is a graduate of LMU.



Gaddi Vasquez

Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, *Southern California Edison*

Gaddi Vasquez is senior vice president of government affairs for Southern California Edison. The former director of the U.S. Peace Corps, Vasquez also served as U.S. Ambassador and permanent representative to United Nations Agencies based in Rome. He is the recipient of five honorary doctorate degrees.



Peter Villegas

Vice President of Latin Affairs, *The Coca-Cola Company*

Peter Villegas is vice president of Latin affairs of the western region for Coca-Cola where he manages local, regional and national strategies that position Coca-Cola as a leading corporate citizen. He serves on numerous boards and was recognized as a top Latino executive by the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility.

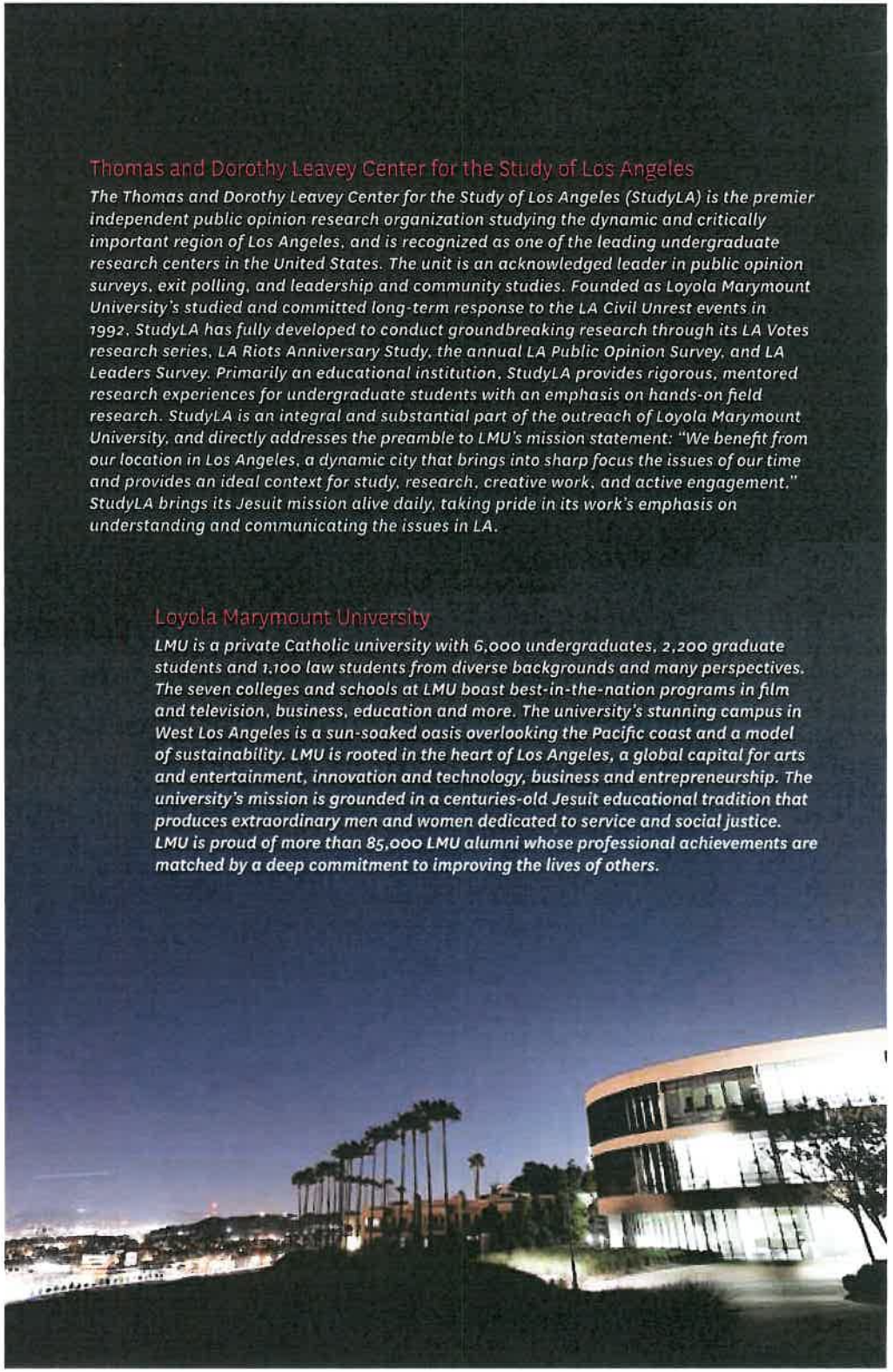


Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles

The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA) is the premier independent public opinion research organization studying the dynamic and critically important region of Los Angeles, and is recognized as one of the leading undergraduate research centers in the United States. The unit is an acknowledged leader in public opinion surveys, exit polling, and leadership and community studies. Founded as Loyola Marymount University's studied and committed long-term response to the LA Civil Unrest events in 1992, StudyLA has fully developed to conduct groundbreaking research through its LA Votes research series, LA Riots Anniversary Study, the annual LA Public Opinion Survey, and LA Leaders Survey. Primarily an educational institution, StudyLA provides rigorous, mentored research experiences for undergraduate students with an emphasis on hands-on field research. StudyLA is an integral and substantial part of the outreach of Loyola Marymount University, and directly addresses the preamble to LMU's mission statement: "We benefit from our location in Los Angeles, a dynamic city that brings into sharp focus the issues of our time and provides an ideal context for study, research, creative work, and active engagement." StudyLA brings its Jesuit mission alive daily, taking pride in its work's emphasis on understanding and communicating the issues in LA.

Loyola Marymount University

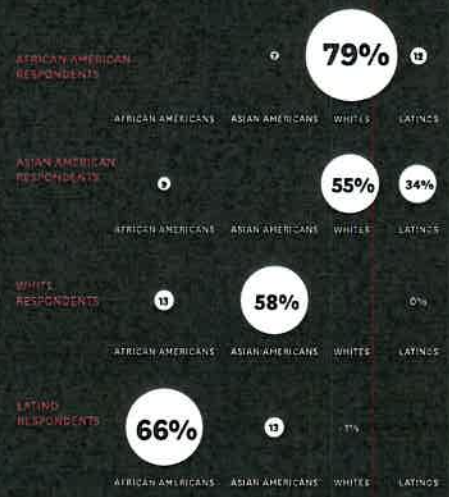
LMU is a private Catholic university with 6,000 undergraduates, 2,200 graduate students and 1,100 law students from diverse backgrounds and many perspectives. The seven colleges and schools at LMU boast best-in-the-nation programs in film and television, business, education and more. The university's stunning campus in West Los Angeles is a sun-soaked oasis overlooking the Pacific coast and a model of sustainability. LMU is rooted in the heart of Los Angeles, a global capital for arts and entertainment, innovation and technology, business and entrepreneurship. The university's mission is grounded in a centuries-old Jesuit educational tradition that produces extraordinary men and women dedicated to service and social justice. LMU is proud of more than 85,000 LMU alumni whose professional achievements are matched by a deep commitment to improving the lives of others.



Methodology

In observance of the 5th (1997), 10th (2002), 15th (2007), 20th (2012), and 25th (2017) reflections of the LA Civil Unrest, the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles conducted surveys of residents in the city of Los Angeles. These surveys document the trends in residents' attitudes toward race relations in the city post-1992. In each survey between 600 - 1,600 randomly selected and ethnically represented residents answered questions offered in multiple languages. Approximately one-quarter of the respondents were African American, one-quarter Asian American, one-quarter Latino, and one-quarter white. Their responses are presented here.

Of the following groups, which do you think most understands the experience of your racial group in Los Angeles?



Recently there has been a movement to bring attention to the relationship between African Americans and police departments across the country. This movement is referred to as Black Lives Matter. Do you agree or disagree with what you know about this movement?

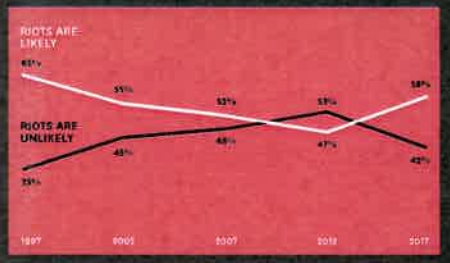
BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN 2017



A conversation reflecting on the last 25 years in Los Angeles

REFLECTION & CELEBRATION

As you may recall, in 1992, the City of Los Angeles experienced widespread rioting and disturbances. Do you think it is likely or unlikely that other riots and disturbances like those in 1992 will occur in the City of Los Angeles in the next five years?



BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN 2017

	VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY	VERY UNLIKELY
OVERALL	21%	27%	27%	25%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	18%	47%	22%	13%
ASIAN AMERICAN	10%	26%	27%	37%
WHITE	17%	25%	34%	25%
LATINO	28%	36%	21%	14%

Overall, how would you say that the racial and ethnic groups in Los Angeles are getting along these days?

	VERY WELL	SOMEWHAT WELL	SOMEWHAT BADLY	VERY BADLY
1997	37%	63%		
2002	19%	58%	15%	8%
2007	5	43%	23%	29%
2012	11%	61%	21%	6%
2017	15%	62%	18%	6%

BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN 2017

	VERY WELL	SOMEWHAT WELL	SOMEWHAT BADLY	VERY BADLY
OVERALL	15%	62%	18%	6%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	13%	60%	20%	7%
ASIAN AMERICAN	10%	69%	18%	3
WHITE	18%	63%	16%	3
LATINO	13%	59%	19%	9%

Do you agree or disagree with the statement that the government treats most Latino immigrants better than it treats Black people born in this country?

BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN 2017

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
OVERALL	12%	30%	30%	29%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	27%	32%	19%	22%
ASIAN AMERICAN	5	35%	40%	20%
WHITE	12%	27%	28%	33%
LATINO	10%	24%	27%	39%

Do you agree or disagree with the statement that the government treats most Asian immigrants better than it treats Black people born in this country?

BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN 2017

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
OVERALL	23%	35%	29%	13%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	60%	29%	4	7%
ASIAN AMERICAN	15%	33%	34%	18%
WHITE	26%	38%	21%	15%
LATINO	28%	37%	19%	16%

Over the past four years, how have race relations changed in Los Angeles and in your neighborhood?

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

	IMPROVED	STAYED THE SAME	GOTTEN WORSE
OVERALL	41%	41%	18%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	35%	37%	28%
ASIAN AMERICAN	39%	50%	12%
WHITE	41%	45%	14%
LATINO	42%	41%	18%

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

	IMPROVED	STAYED THE SAME	GOTTEN WORSE
OVERALL	27%	59%	8%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	36%	51%	13%
ASIAN AMERICAN	34%	62%	4
WHITE	33%	63%	4
LATINO	41%	49%	10%

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Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles

Reflection & Celebration: Los Angeles, 25 Years Later
Wednesday, April 26, 2017
5:00-8:00pm
Life Sciences Building, Loyola Marymount University

PROGRAM
5:00 – 5:05pm
Welcome Remarks

- Fernando J. Guerra

5:05-5:15pm
President's Award Ceremony
President Timothy Law Snyder confers the 2017 President's Awards

- Timothy Law Snyder – *Host*
- Warren Olney
- Larry Mantle

5:15-6:00pm
(30m panel discussion, 15m audience question-and-answer)
We Were There: Los Angeles in 1992
A conversation reflecting on the last 25 years in Los Angeles

- Warren Olney - *Moderator*
- Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
- Angela Oh
- Monica Lozano

6:15-7:00pm
(30m panel discussion, 15m audience question-and-answer)
We Are Here: Los Angeles in 2017
A conversation reflecting on the current state of Los Angeles and its future

- Larry Mantle – *Moderator*
- Ana Guerrero
- David Ryu
- Marqueece Harris Dawson

7:00-8:00pm
(brief remarks and cocktail reception)
Celebrating 20 years of Study LA
A celebration of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles

- Fernando J. Guerra – *Host*

LMU | LA
Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles

Reflection & Celebration:
Los Angeles, 25 Years Later

Logistics

On-Site Contact
Alejandra Alarcon, Research Coordinator, Center for the Study of Los Angeles
Office 310.338.4565
Mobile [redacted] (preferred)
Email alejandra.alarcon@lmu.edu

All guests should enter campus via Lincoln Blvd. You may ask the attendant at the visitor's booth for directions to the Life Sciences Building but we have also provided a campus map in the attachments for your references.

All guests should park in Parking Lot D (located at H-6 on the campus map). A student researcher from the Center for the Study of Los Angeles will greet program speakers at the entrance of the parking structure and direct them to the reserved parking spaces. All program speakers will have a designated parking space on the first level of the structure. A student researcher will direct them from the parking structure to the auditorium.

Program speakers should plan to arrive 15 minutes before the start of the segment of the program in which they are participating. Alejandra Alarcon will be at the entrance of the Life Sciences Building Auditorium to greet all program speakers and brief them prior to the start of the segment.

Moderators will stand behind the podium and use lapel microphones; panelists will take a seat behind the table and use handheld microphones. Please refer to the space layout of the Life Sciences Building Auditorium for reference.

The event is free and open to the public. We anticipate having 200 people in attendance, including students, faculty and other members of the LMU community as well as members of the University's Board of Trustees, StudyLA's Development Council and former and current StudyLA leadership and researchers.

REFLECTION CELEBRATION

Wednesday, April 26

Frank R. Seaver Life Sciences Building

Loyola Marymount University

Kindly respond to Alejandra Alarcon (310-338-4565). Full details about the event and online rsvp available at **www.lmu.edu/studyLA.**

We were there: Los Angeles in 1992

A conversation reflecting on the last 25 years in Los Angeles.

Warren Olney, Moderator
Warren Olney is a veteran broadcast journalist and the award-winning moderator of the radio program "Which Way, L.A.?"

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Panelist
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke serves on numerous federal, state, and local boards. She retired from the LA County Board of Supervisors in 2008 after serving for 17 years.

Angela Oh, Panelist
Angela Oh is an attorney, teacher, and public lecturer. She is widely respected for her role as a spokesperson for the Korean American community post-1992.

Monica Lozano, Panelist
Monica Lozano chairs the University of California Regents and the Aspen Institute's "Latinos and Society" program. She is the former publisher and editor of La Opinión.

We are here: Los Angeles in 2017

A conversation reflecting on the current state of Los Angeles and its future.

Larry Mantle, Moderator
Larry Mantle is the host of AirTalk, the longest continuously running daily talk program on Los Angeles radio.

Ana Guerrero, Panelist
Ana Guerrero is chief of staff for city of Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti.

David Ryu, Panelist
David Ryu serves as councilman for Los Angeles City District 4. He is the first Korean-American to hold a council seat in LA.

Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Panelist
Marqueece Harris-Dawson serves as a councilman for Los Angeles City District 8.

Celebrating 20 years of StudyLA

A celebration of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

Fernando J. Guerra, Host
Fernando J. Guerra is the director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles and professor at Loyola Marymount University.

Connect Create Collaborate

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Fwd: Follow-up on Meeting with Fernando Guerra

3 messages

Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 1:31 PM
To: William Chun <william.chun@lacity.org>, Sumi Parekh <sumi.parekh@lacity.org>
Cc: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

[redacted]

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Gilbert, Brianne** <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu>
Date: Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 12:43 PM
Subject: Re: Follow-up on Meeting with Fernando Guerra
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

Hi Ana,

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. Having a senior member of the staff on the panel talking about tech and innovation would be great! Please let me know what next step I should take to make that happen.

Thanks again!
Bri

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2018, at 11:14 AM, Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> wrote:

> He'd love to do it. Unfortunately, he's already booked solid on the 18th. If appropriate I can suggest senior members of our staff that could take the Mayor's place. Let me know if Fernando is interested.
>
> Ana Guerrero
> **Chief of Staff**
> **Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti**
> [redacted]
>
> On Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 10:03 AM, Gilbert, Brianne <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu> wrote:
>
> > Hi Ana,

I hope your day is going well. As a follow-up to your meeting with Fernando yesterday, we wanted to see if Mayor Garcetti would be interested in being on an upcoming panel at LMU on April 18th (10:15 to 11:15).

As you know, every year we hold our annual Forecast LA conference where we release the results of our big public opinion survey. This year we are partnering with Marketplace (a radio program geared at business topics, financial trends, innovation, tech, etc….they are on NPR and have almost 15 million listeners a week). Joanne Griffith, the executive producer of Marketplace Weekend, will be moderating a panel of local execs discussing Silicon Beach. Specifically we were thinking the Mayor could speak to why LA is encouraging more tech business here and how this plays out in education and attracting the next generation of workers (or he could talk about a whole slew of other ideas and initiatives he has regarding the tech sector).

Thoughts? Do you think this would be something he would be interested in doing, and then is he available?

Thanks so much!
Bri

Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director,
Thomas and Dorothy Leavey

Center for the Study of Los Angeles

Lecturer, Department of Political Science
Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies

University Hall 4114
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
www.lmu.edu/studyLA | Privacy + Legal

Office 310.338.1779

Mobile [redacted]

Email brianne.gilbert@lmu.edu

Twitter @researcherbri

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6 attachments

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Sumi Parekh <sumi.parekh@lacity.org> Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 1:40 PM
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: William Chun <william.chun@lacity.org>, Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

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<image005.gif>

Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 1:50 PM
To: Sumi Parekh <sumi.parekh@lacity.org>
Cc: William Chun <william.chun@lacity.org>, Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

[redacted]
[Quoted text hidden]

Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Re: 2018 State of the City

6 messages

Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 4:03 PM
To: "Cortes, Jorge" <Jorge.Cortes@lmu.edu>
Cc: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>, Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Wonderful. Can you please send vehicle info to Caesar, copied here so we can arrange parking?

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

On Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 3:53 PM, Cortes, Jorge <Jorge.Cortes@lmu.edu> wrote:

> Hello Ms. Guerrero,
>
> I assist Dr. Guerra here at the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. He will gladly attend the preview meeting with the Mayor. Do let me know if there specifics or instructions that he will need to be informed of prior to attending.
>
> Thank you,
>
> Jorge
>
> **Jorge Cortes**
>
> **Research Coordinator**
> **Thomas and Dorothy Leavey**
> **Center for the Study of Los Angeles**
>
> University Hall 4119
> 1 LMU Drive
> Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
> www.lmu.edu/studyLA | Privacy + Legal

Office 310.338.4565

Mobile [redacted]

Email jorge.cortes@lmu.edu

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From: Center for the Study of Los Angeles
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 3:42 PM
To: Cortes, Jorge <Jorge.Cortes@lmu.edu>
Subject: FW: 2018 State of the City

Please rsvp for FG. He will attend. Also add it to his calendar. Thanks!

From: Ana Guerrero < >
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 3:35 PM
To: Center for the Study of Los Angeles <csla@lmu.edu>
Subject: 2018 State of the City

Hi Fernando.

As I mentioned to you earlier this week, I am organizing an intimate gathering of opinion leaders to meet with the Mayor next week for a preview of his 2018 State of the City Address.

The gathering will take place on Wednesday, April 11th, at 5pm him in his office. I am hoping that you are available to attend.

At his annual State of the City address on April 16th, Mayor Garcetti will unveil a strategy for getting unsheltered Angelenos off the streets and into bridge housing more quickly - while we build thousands of supportive housing units and deploy the services voters of Los Angeles called for with the passage of Prop HHH and Measure H.

Homelessness is the moral and humanitarian crisis of our time and the Mayor wants to preview his plans directly with influential folks such as yourself and address all your questions about how we are solving homelessness in Los Angeles.

Please let me know if you can attend.

Ana

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 5:30 PM
To: Dan Schnur <dan.schnur@mindspring.com>
Cc: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>, Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>

Terrific!

Send us your vehicle info and we'll make sure your parking is taken care of. See you next week!

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

On Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 5:22 PM, Dan Schnur <dan.schnur@mindspring.com> wrote:

Hi Ana —

It's great to hear from you, and I hope you're doing well. Thanks again for agreeing to join us at USC for the Trojans For Israel Leadership dinner in a couple weeks: I know how busy you are and it really means a lot to me that you're able to be with us.

And thanks so much for your invitation for the briefing next Wednesday: I'm flattered to be asked and I will definitely plan to be there. Just let me know if there are any logistics I should know, and I'll look forward to seeing you then,

Dan

On 5 Apr 2018, at 3:35 PM, Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> wrote:

> Hi Dan. I hope you are well!
> [Quoted text hidden]

Dan Schnur <dan.schnur@mindspring.com> Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 5:39 PM
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>, Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>

That sounds terrific, Anna. I have a [redacted] and the license plates are [redacted]

Thanks again!

Dan
[Quoted text hidden]

Cortes, Jorge <Jorge.Cortes@lmu.edu> Thu, Apr 5, 2018 at 10:21 PM
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>, Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Yes, his plate number is [redacted] and it is an [redacted]

Let me know if you need more information.

Thank you,

Jorge

[Quoted text hidden]

Cortes, Jorge <Jorge.Cortes@lmu.edu> Tue, Apr 10, 2018 at 9:34 PM
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>, Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Good evening Ana and Caesar,

Just want to confirm which parking area Fernando will need to park at for the gathering at the Mayor's office .

Thank you,

Jorge

From: Cortes, Jorge
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 10:22 PM
To: 'Ana Guerrero' <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Guerra, Fernando <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>; Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>; Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>
Subject: RE: 2018 State of the City

Yes, his plate number is [redacted] and it is an [redacted]

Let me know if you need more information.

Thank you,

Jorge

From: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 4:03 PM
To: Cortes, Jorge <Jorge.Cortes@lmu.edu>
Cc: Guerra, Fernando <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>; Caesar Cereceres <Caesar.Cereceres@lacity.org>; Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Caesar Cereceres <caesar.cereceres@lacity.org> Tue, Apr 10, 2018 at 9:47 PM
To: "Cortes, Jorge" <Jorge.Cortes@lmu.edu>
Cc: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>, "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, Jayanthi Daniel <jayanthi.daniel@lacity.org>

Greetings Jorge,

I hope this finds you well this evening.

Thank you, for providing Dr. Guerra's vehicle information as it pertains to tomorrow afternoon's Meeting at City Hall.

Come morning, I shall provide additional guidelines as it relates to parking accommodations for Dr. Guerra's reference.

Until then, may you have a pleasant remainder to your evening.

Best regards,

- Caesar
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Jorge Cortes

Research Coordinator
Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles

University Hall 4119
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
www.lmu.edu/studyLA | Privacy + Legal

Office 310.338.4565

Mobile [redacted]

Email jorge.cortes@lmu.edu

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<image005.gif>

[Quoted text hidden]

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Eric Garcetti <eric.garcetti@lacity.org>

City of LA Daily Alert

1 message

pradmin@cision.com <pradmin@cision.com>
To: eric.garcetti@lacity.org

Sun, Jul 29, 2018 at 5:11 AM

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KCAL 9 News Saturday

...berg, all of this is bad news for the president. >> let's talk about mayor ***garcetti*** in asia for a 10 day trade summited laying foundation...

Source KCAL 9 News Weekend Report - KCAL-TV - Jul 28, 2018

Audience Reach: 18,672

Publicity Value: $2,383.00

Share

Online

The $3 Billion Plan to Turn Hoover Dam Into a Giant Battery

...to look at this as a once-in-a-century moment," said Mayor Eric M. ***Garcetti*** of Los Angeles. "So far, it looks really possible. It looks...

Source The New York Times Online - Jul 28, 2018

Audience Reach: 29,886,442

Publicity Value: $34,369.41

Share

Political Expert Weighs In On U.S. Debt, Cohen Tapes, Mayor Garcetti

Political Expert Weighs In On U.S. Debt, Cohen Tapes, Mayor ***Garcetti*** Loyola Marymount political science professor Dr. Fernando Guerra...

Source KCBS-TV Online - Jul 28, 2018

Audience Reach: 27,819,439

Publicity Value: $6,398.47

Share

Mayor Garcetti's presidential ambition: Is he serious?

... Is he or isn't he? That's the question for L.A. Mayor Eric ***Garcetti***. Advertisement Is he running for...

Source Los Angeles Times Online - Jul 28, 2018

Audience Reach: 23,904,510

Publicity Value: $27,490.19

Share

Social

#ericGarcetti. Just take pictures of the mass homeless in LA he is mayor of.

Source brucebialosky - 07/28/2018

Publicity Value: $0.00

Share

WOW! #Hollywood #PedoGate (#PedoWood) scandal broke open, a lot, this week; when former Hollywood actor Issac Kappy spills alleged beans on Speilberg/Hanks/DeNiro/Seth Green. These

people are far worse than anything Michael Jackson ever did. #LAMayor #Eri

Source zumadoggtweets - 07/28/2018

Publicity Value: $0.00

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Election Central Watch Party, Tuesday Nov. 6, 5:30pm

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Oct 17, 2018 at 9:15 AM



LA's Election Watch Party

Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 5:30-8:30 pm
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes
501 North Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free and open to the public

Complimentary food and drink

Join us as we learn which elected officials will shape the future of Los Angeles, the State, and the Nation.

For more information and to RSVP go here.





This email was sent by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (studyLA@lmu.edu).

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Loyola Marymount University

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
1 LMU Drive, Suite 4319
Los Angeles, CA 90045
studyLA@lmu.edu
lmu.edu/studyLA

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Los Angeles, CA | 90045 US

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To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

The Election Central Watch Party is two weeks away!

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Tue, Oct 23, 2018 at 2:00 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org



The LA Election Watch Party

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
5:30-8:30pm
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes
501 North Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Complimentary food and drinks

Join us as we learn who will shape the future of
Los Angeles, the State, and the Nation.

For more details and to RSVP click here





This email was sent by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (studyLA@lmu.edu).

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Loyola Marymount University

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
1 LMU Drive, Suite 3115
Los Angeles, CA 90045
www.lmu.edu/
studyla@lmu.edu

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1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA | 90045 US

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Six days until Election Central: LA's Election Watch Party

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Wed, Oct 31, 2018 at 10:30 AM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org



The LA Election Watch Party

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
5:30-8:30pm
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes
501 North Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Complimentary food and drinks

Join us as we learn who will shape the future of
Los Angeles, the State, and the Nation.

For more information please click here.





This email was sent by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (studyLA@lmu.edu).

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Loyola Marymount University

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
1 LMU Drive, Suite 4700
Los Angeles, CA 90045
study.LA@lmu.edu
lmu.edu/studyLA

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Election Central: LA's Election Watch Party starts today at 5:30pm

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Tue, Nov 6, 2018 at 9:30 AM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org



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5:30-8:30pm
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
1 LMU Drive, Suite 4119
Los Angeles, CA 90045
studyLA@lmu.edu
http://studyLA

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Thanks for joining us at Election Central!

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Wed, Nov 14, 2018 at 3:03 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY
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Thank you for a great Election Central Watch Party!!

Hundreds joined us at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes to view up-to-the-minute results where we learned how some races ended in what proved to be an exciting election.

Click **here** to see pictures from the event.

Not all the races have been called, including the Sherrif's race. StudyLA was hard at work on election day on many fronts, working with our student researchers to see how Angelenos voted in this election.

Click **here** to view our LA Votes exit polls on several city and state races.

See you at the next Election Central!

Keep up with StudyLA in the News on Twitter and Facebook.

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Happy Holiday wishes from StudyLA

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thu, Dec 13, 2018 at 1:51 PM

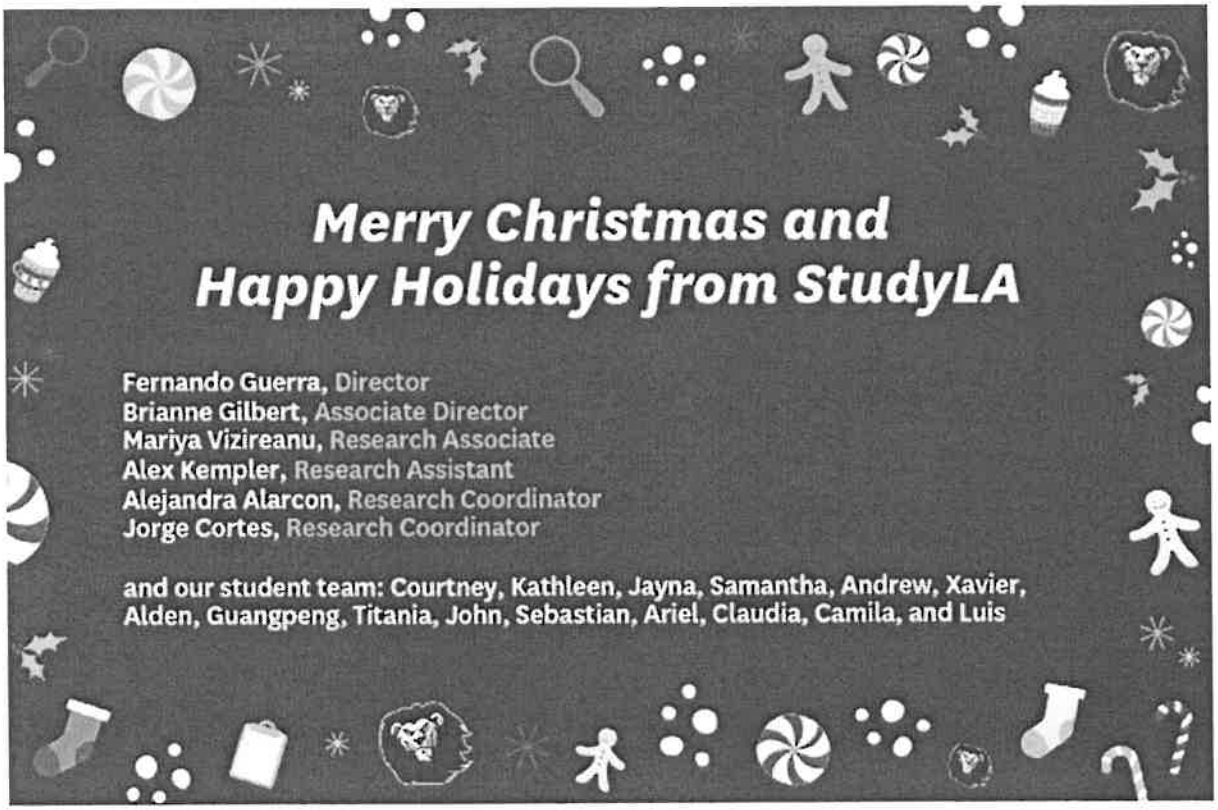
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Thank you for another successful year of contributing to the civic dialogue in Los Angeles

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- hosted fifth annual Forecast LA conference
- conducted fifteenth LA Votes project resulting in accurate predictions of the gubernatorial and LA County sheriff races
- surveyed over 5,000 Angelenos
- engaged over 200 undergraduate students in field research



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StudyLA coverage on LAUSD strike

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Thu, Jan 17, 2019 at 11:35 AM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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Yesterday, StudyLA released the first results from its 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

The survey found that nearly 80 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they support LAUSD teachers who have chosen to go on strike during a contract battle with district leadership.

LAUSD Strike Report in the News

So far, the story has been covered by the LA Times, The New York Times, KPCC 89.3, KCRW 89.9, KABC 790, KTLA-5, Reuters, LA Taco, LA School Report, American School & University Magazine, and LA Daily News.

The LA Times story highlighting the survey results was featured on the front page of today's print edition.

Los Angeles Times

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

latimes.com



GINA FERAZZI / Los Angeles Times

COUNSELOR SANDRA Santacruz-Cervantes, center, joins picketers outside Hollywood High on the second day of L.A.'s teachers' strike.

Teachers bask in support for strike

But as walkout marches on at a cost of millions a day, there's pressure for each side to settle

BY HOWARD BLUME AND DOUG SMITH

largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — with a fourth



SHERIFF REHIRES DEPUTY ACCUSED OF ABUSE

Department fired man over stalking allegations, but he later worked for Villanueva campaign.

BY MAYA LAU

Caren Carl Mandoyan played a special role last month at the swearing-in of Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva, standing on stage and holding the box of gold pins that would adorn the collars of the top cop and his senior executives.

Mandoyan served as a trusted member of Villanueva's campaign team, acting as his driver and rallying rank-and-file deputies to lobby their union to endorse his long-shot candidacy.

But Mandoyan didn't have the typical resume of a campaign worker. He served as a deputy for 10 years until he was fired in 2016 by then-Sheriff Jim McDonnell in connection with allegations of domestic abuse and stalking. A county appeals board heard evidence and upheld the dismissal.

Despite this, Villanueva decided to reinstate Mandoyan as a deputy in the Sheriff's Department.

LA teachers back in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial loses

by Howard Blume and Doug Smith

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they sided with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University. The strike has strong support across the board," said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. "These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life."

The press release can be found here.

Live updates on media coverage can be found here.

Report Highlights: Resident Support

- Over 80 percent in union households and 70 percent in non-union households
- Over 80 percent with children living in household, 70 percent with no children living in household
- Over 90 percent of Blacks and 80 percent of Latina/os

- Over 80 percent between the ages of 18 and 44
- Over 80 percent lower class, 70 percent middle class, and 60 percent of upper class
- Over 80 percent liberals, 70 percent moderates, and 60 percent of conservatives

Data visualizations can be found on social media here, here, and here.

The results reflect the opinions of the 425 residents who were surveyed prior to the start of the LAUSD strike starting on Monday, January 14, 2019. The survey will continue to run throughout the month of January and the first two weeks of February. The question wording has been changed to reflect the reality of the strike.

"We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home," Gilbert said. "But for now, it's clear that L.A. stands with its striking teachers."

The full report can be found here.

Forecast LA

The annual Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey is the largest general social survey of any metropolitan area in urban America. Residents are asked about quality-of-life perceptions, economic concerns, personal financial well-being, overall life satisfaction, and various timely civic issues. The results are released at Forecast LA, StudyLA's annual conference now entering its sixth year.

Save the Date: Forecast LA will be held on the morning of Wednesday, April 10, 2019 in Downtown LA.

More information about Forecast LA can be found here.

This email was sent by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (studyLA@lmu.edu).

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www.studyla.net

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LMU StudyLA's 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 3:10 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference at Loyola Marymount University



The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University invites you to the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

Event Details
$175 PER PERSON
To purchase tickets click here.

Networking Breakfast: 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Conference Program: 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Burns Recreation Center
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Confirmed speakers include*:

Timothy Law Snyder
President, Loyola Marymount University

Hon. Fiona Ma
Vice Chair, California Board of Equalization

Larry J. Kosmont
President and CEO, Kosmont Companies

Fernando J. Guerra
Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

Brianne Gilbert
Associate Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

*Additional speakers will be posted as they are confirmed.

Thank you to our growing list of sponsors and collaborators!

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See you at *Forecast* LA!

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Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference

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LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 11:32 AM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference
at Loyola Marymount University!



UPDATE: In addition to our stellar slate of speakers, this year we're excited to announce a partnership with **Marketplace®.** With 14.8 million weekly listeners, Marketplace is on a mission to raise the economic intelligence of the country. Don't miss a panel discussion moderated by Executive Producer Joanne Griffith, providing a comprehensive analysis on current issues and future trends in the Los Angeles Region.

Event Details

$175 PER PERSON
To purchase tickets click here.

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1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045

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Fiona Ma
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Fernando J. Guerra
Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU
Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies
Professor, Department of Political Science

Brianne Gilbert
Associate Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU
Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies
Lecturer, Department of Political Science

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Automatic reply: Happy Holidays!

1 message

Gilbert, Brianne <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu> Mon, Dec 24, 2018 at 10:19 AM
To: Mayor Eric Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I am away from the office until Monday, January 7. I will be checking email over the break, but if your message is urgent, please text me at 310-321-8882.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Bri

Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA)

Senior Lecturer, Political Science and Urban and Environmental Studies

University Hall 4114

1 LMU Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659

www.lmu.edu/studyLA

310.338.1779

brianne.gilbert@lmu.edu

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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

SAVE THE DATE: LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - April 10

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Thu, Feb 7, 2019 at 10:52 AM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019
DOWNTOWN LA: THE CENTER AT CATHEDRAL PLAZA
NETWORKING BREAKFAST: 8AM-9AM
PROGRAM: 9AM-11:30AM

Forecast LA is an annual conference that examines the opinions of residents and leaders in Los Angeles about the future of the region.

This event, with sold-out attendance year-to-year, has been instrumental to civic, business, and community leaders alike, giving them valuable perspective on how our region thinks and feels, right now.

In its 6th year, we are moving the conference to a larger space in the heart of the city: The Center at Cathedral Plaza in Downtown LA.

We hope you will join us.

www.lmu.edu/forecastLA

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LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - April 10

1 message

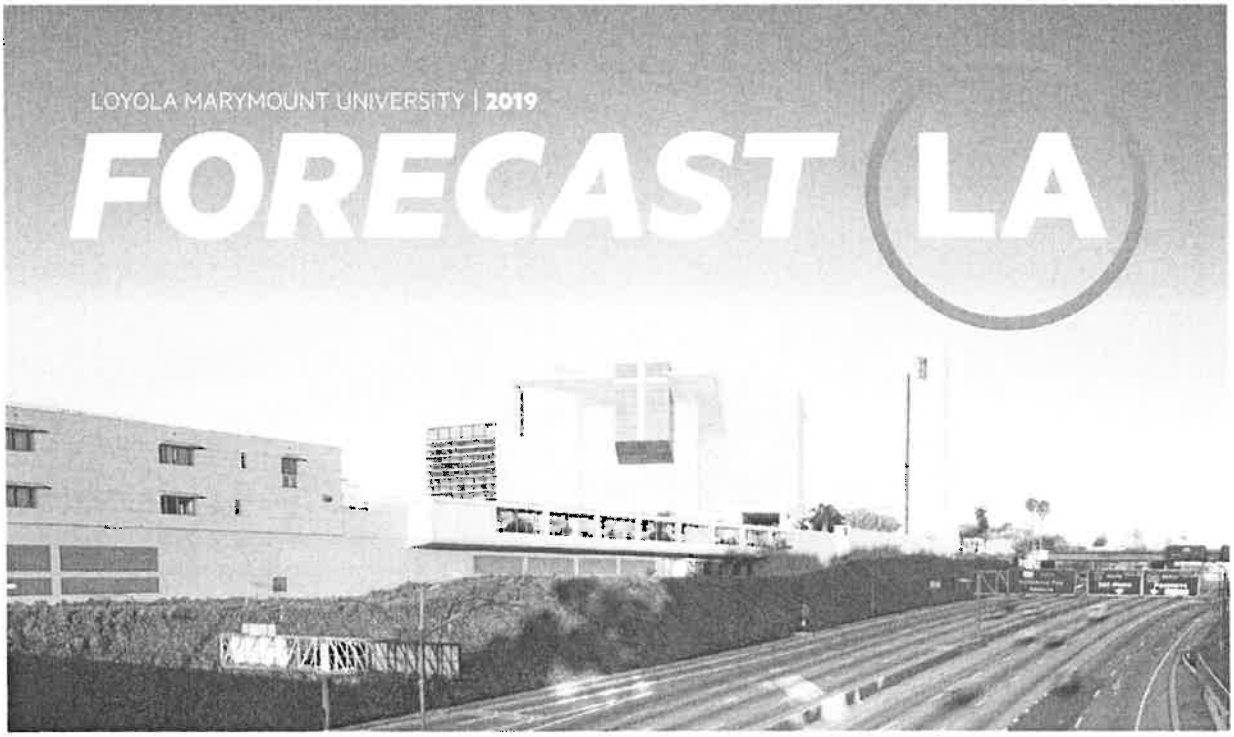
LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Wed, Mar 6, 2019 at 4:25 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES
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Join us for our

6th Annual Forecast LA Conference

in Downtown Los Angeles!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

Downtown LA: The Central at Cathedral Plaza

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM

Program: 9AM-11:30AM

Easy, on-site, free parking

www.lmu.edu/forecastLA

Use code "STUDYLA2019" for your complimentary registration.

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LMU Day of Giving 2019 & StudyLA

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Fri, Mar 15, 2019 at 1:20 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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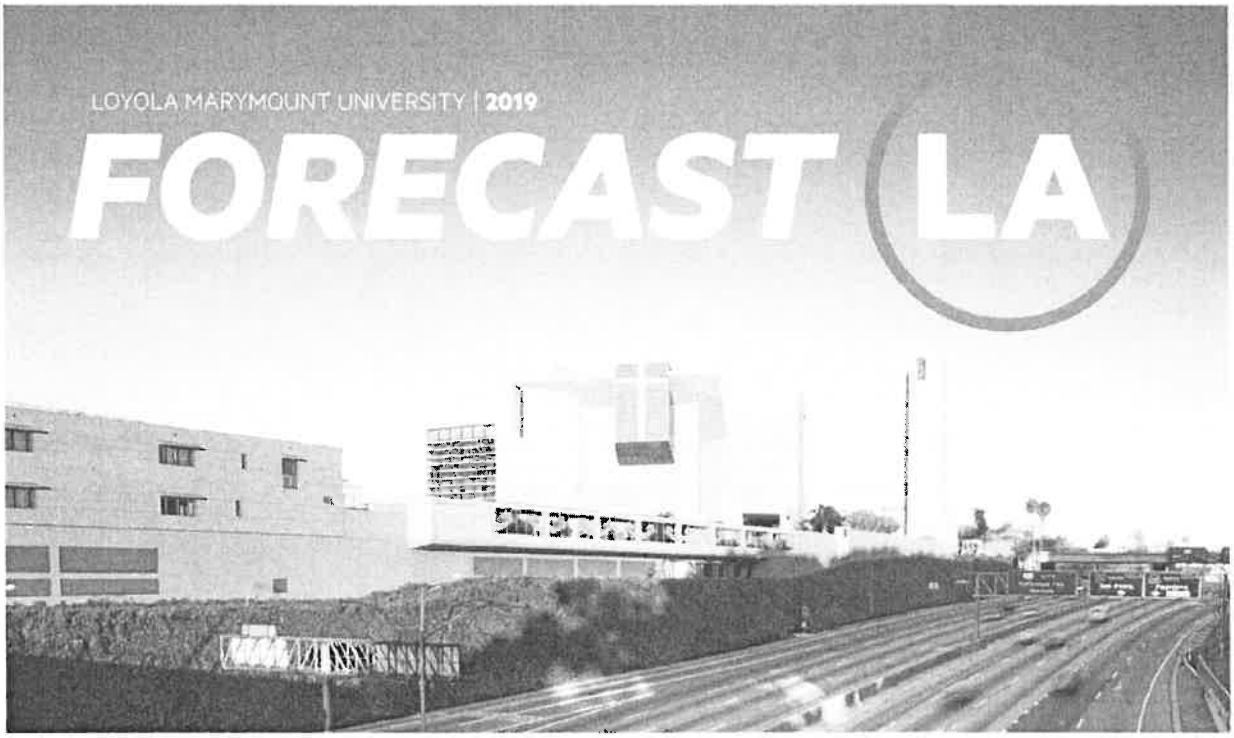
LMU DAY OF GIVING 2019



This year, the Center for for the Study of Los Angeles has been selected by the Provost, Thomas Poon, as one of his key intiatives for LMU Day of Giving. Your support on March 19, will help push our program forward in providing opportunities to celebrate LMU students and help them succeed.

In the meantime, don't forget to register for our 2019 Forecast LA conference.

This year in Downtown LA!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019
Downtown LA: The Center at Cathedral Plaza
555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM
Program: 9AM-11:30AM
Free and easy, on-site parking

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To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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Support StudyLA in #OneLMUDrive – TODAY!

This semester, three of our student researchers – Jayna Ortiz '19, Alden Lundy '20, and John Andrikos '21 – have been invited to present original research findings at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. Thanks to the generous contributions of donors like you, StudyLA is able to fully fund all three students.

Jayna shares, *"Over the past three years, StudyLA has given me research skills, professional development tools, the opportunity to travel, and a newfound appreciation for civic engagement.*

Now, as I get ready to leave the Bluff, I am empowered to have a meaningful career that will create a positive impact in my community."

Today, we need your support for ongoing student-oriented programs such as the LA Votes exit polls and polling place quality studies, Sacramento Seminar, and the Los Angeles/Mexico City comparative trip.

Give to our #OneLMUDrive and make a gift to the Center for the Study of Los Angeles before 11:59pm TONIGHT. You can donate today by clicking the button below.

Thank you for your support!

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Still time to support us today! LMU Day of Giving 2019 & Forecast LA

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LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Tue, Mar 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM
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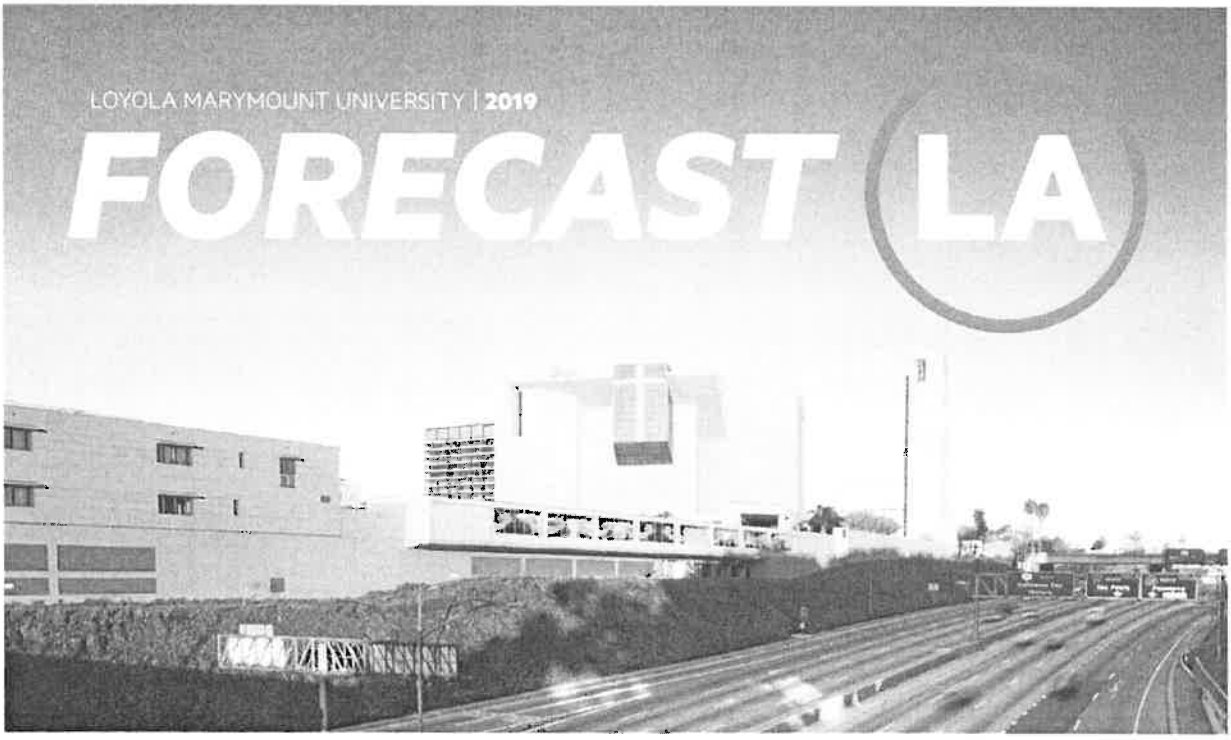
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Thank you for your support!

Click here to select Center for the Study of Los Angeles

Be sure to rsvp for Forecast LA, this year in downtown LA!



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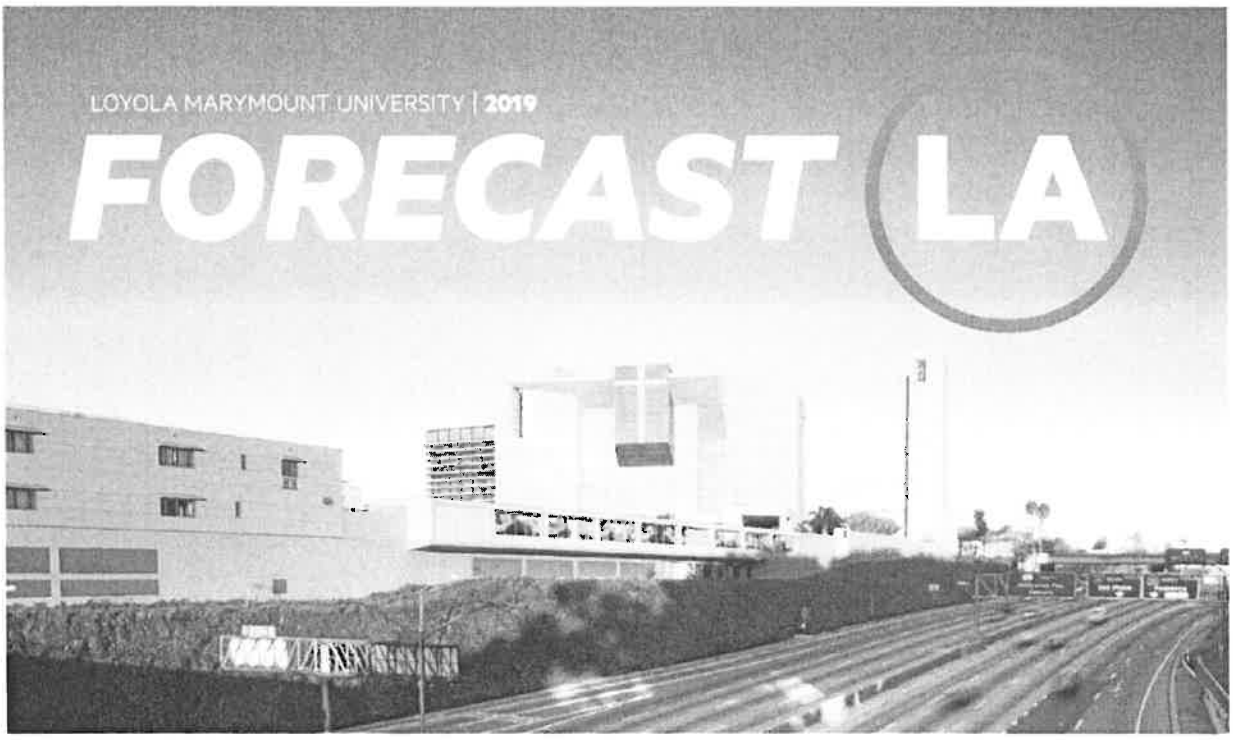
LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference, Wednesday, April 10

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Wed, Mar 27, 2019 at 3:10 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM
Program: 9AM-11:30AM
Free, easy on-site parking

Don't forget to register at:
www.lmu.edu/forecastLA
Use code "STUDYLA2019" for your complimentary registration.

Forecast LA is an annual conference that examines the opinions of residents and leaders in Los Angeles about the future of the region. This event has been instrumental to civic, business, and community leaders alike, giving them valuable perspective on how our region thinks and feels, right now. We hope you will join us.

Speakers and panelists confirmed include:

Rev. Robert Walsh, S.J.,
Chancellor, Loyola Marymount University

Most Rev. Jose H. Gomez,
Archbishop, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Alex Villanueva,
Sheriff, Los Angeles County

Maria S. Salinas,
President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Jessica Lall,
President & CEO, Central City Association

Mary Leslie,
President, Los Angeles Business Council

Anna Magzanyan,
Publisher & CEO, Los Angeles Business Journal

Larry J. Kosmont,
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Fernando J. Guerra,
Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU

Brianne Gilbert,
Associate Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU

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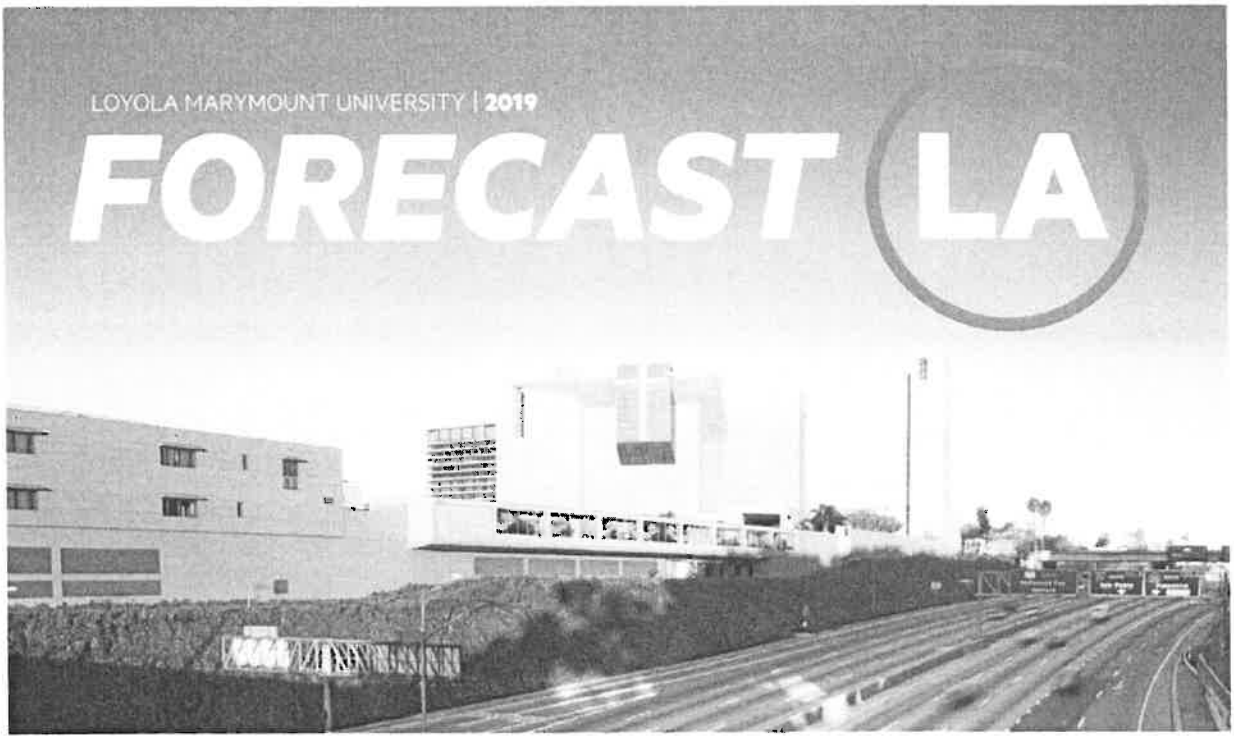
Next Week: LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - Wednesday, April 10

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Wed, Apr 3, 2019 at 4:02 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY
CENTER FOR THE
STUDY OF LOS ANGELES
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Forecast LA is next Wednesday - don't miss your chance to learn what LA County residents think at the 6th annual conference.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

The Center at Cathedral Plaza
555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM
Program: 9AM-11:30AM
Free, easy on-site parking

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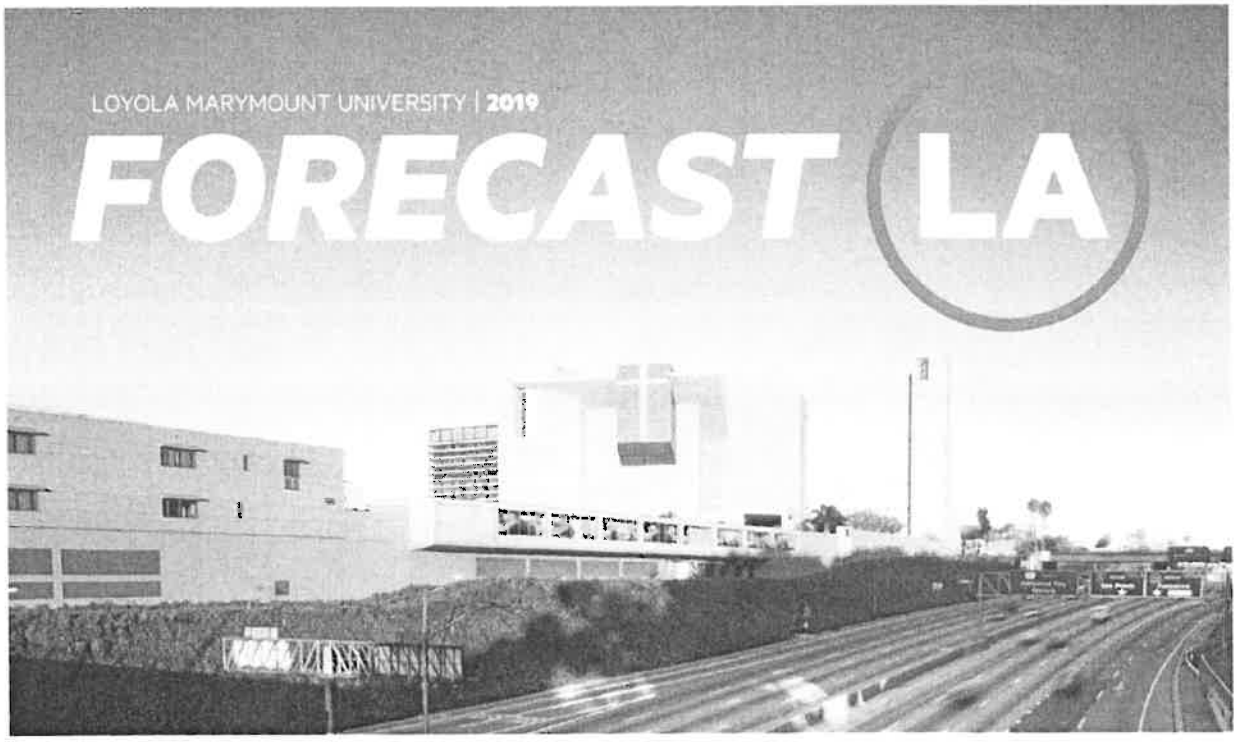
Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

This Week: LMU's 2019 Forecast LA Conference - Wednesday, April 10

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 2:02 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

THOMAS & DOROTHY LEAVEY
CENTER FOR THE
STUDY OF LOS ANGELES
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019
The Center at Cathedral Plaza
555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Networking Breakfast: 8AM-9AM
Program: 9AM-11:30AM
Free, easy on-site parking

Follow this link for online registration (open until 3pm,Tuesday 4/9):

www.lmu.edu/forecastLA

Use code "STUDYLA2019" for your complimentary registration.

(On-site registration also available morning of the event.)

Forecast LA is an annual conference that examines the opinions of residents and leaders in Los Angeles about the future of the region. This event has been instrumental to civic, business, and community leaders alike, giving them valuable perspective on how our region thinks and feels, right now. We hope you will join us.

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Hon. Alex Villanueva,
Sheriff, Los Angeles County

Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas,
Supervisor - 2nd District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Maria S. Salinas,
President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Jessica Lall,
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Leaders in LA County coming together to discuss our region's challenges

1 message

Propel L.A. - Powered by LAEDC <strategicplan@laedc.org> Thu, Jun 28, 2018 at 11:52 AM
Reply-To: strategicplan@laedc.org
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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Powered by LAEDC, Propel L.A. is the
2016-2020 Countywide Strategic Plan for Economic Development.

88 CITIES SUMMIT

Regional Collaboration: Addressing Common Challenges

As the leader of your city, you face complex challenges related to housing, homelessness, infrastructure, and other issues.

Propel L.A. invites you to join mayors and university/college presidents as we tackle these issues in our 88 Cities Pre-Summit: Leaders'

Exchange - an engaging conversation with **Julian Castro**, former HUD secretary, and **Fernando Guerra**, Loyola Marymount University Director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.



88 Cities Pre-Summit: Leaders' Exchange, featuring Honorable Julian Castro

The Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Former Mayor of San Antonio, Texas will engage in a lively discussion with Fernando Guerra, Loyola Marymount University.

The Leaders' Exchange is a *free*, invitation only event, for mayors, city councilmembers, and city managers.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
W HOTEL, HOLLYWOOD

REGISTER NOW

We hope you will also participate in our 88 Cities Summit immediately following, from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm!

Join economic developers, county administrators and educators for a lively afternoon of dynamic presentations and interactive sessions on issues of housing, homeless, business priorities, and infrastructure.

Immediately following the 88 Cities Pre-Summit: Leaders' Exchange. Hear from **Julian Castro** as our lunch keynote speaker.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

W HOTEL, HOLLYWOOD

Register now for a special city rate of $50, until June 30th!

In the spirit of collaboration, after the Summit join our partner, BizFed Institute, for the Freshman Policymakers Party at Avalon Hollywood (directly across from the W Hotel, Hollywood)!! Meet more than 100 government officials shaping the future of business in LA County.

Learn more at bizfed.org/freshman

---

88 Cities Summit is being held in partnership with:

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Message from Bill Allen: 88 Cities Summit Leaders' Exchange

1 message

Propel L.A. - Powered by LAEDC <strategicplan@laedc.org> Tue, Jul 17, 2018 at 3:55 PM
Reply-To: strategicplan@laedc.org
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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Bill Allen, LAEDC CEO

88 CITIES SUMMIT

Regional Collaboration: Addressing Common Challenges

As leaders in your communities and institutions, you face complex challenges related to homelessness, infrastructure, how to be more inclusive in your economic development efforts, and many other issues. These challenges are becoming more common in the region, and the role of collaboration is becoming increasingly significant. After all, when local leaders work together to address shared issues, they not only uplift their communities, they empower the region and lead the nation.

Propel L.A, a division of the LAEDC, invites you as we tackle regional issues and the integral role of collaboration in our 88 Cities Pre-Summit: Leaders' Exchange. Join other mayors, and college and university presidents in an engaging conversation with **the Honorable Julian Castro**, former HUD

Secretary and Mayor of San Antonio, TX, and Dr. Fernando Guerra, Loyola Marymount University, Director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.
This is a free, invitation-only event.

Join us as we discuss how our local leaders become national leaders, through collaboration and synergy as a region.



88 Cities Summit Leaders' Exchange, featuring Honorable Julian Castro

The Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Former Mayor of San Antonio, TX will engage in a lively discussion with Dr. Fernando Guerra, Loyola Marymount University.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2nd
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
W Hotel, Hollywood
6250 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles, 90028

We look forward to seeing you August 2nd!

REGISTER NOW

Thank you to our Leaders' Exchange Sponsor,
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Message from Bill Allen: 88 Cities Summit Leaders' Exchange

1 message

Propel L.A. - Powered by LAEDC <strategicplan@laedc.org> Fri, Jul 20, 2018 at 7:50 AM
Reply-To: strategicplan@laedc.org
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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Bill Allen, LAEDC CEO

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6250 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles, 90028

We look forward to seeing you August 2nd!

REGISTER NOW

The Leaders' Exchange will be immediately followed by our **88 Cities Summit**. Learn more **here**

Thank you to our Leaders' Exchange Sponsor, Loyola Marymount University

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Contact us at strategicplan@laedc.org for more information.

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Who will represent your city?

1 message

Bill Allen <bill.allen@laedc.org>
Reply-To: strategicplan@laedc.org
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Wed, Jul 25, 2018 at 8:49 AM

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Bill Allen, LAEDC CEO

88 CITIES SUMMIT

Regional Collaboration:
Addressing Common Challenges

Dear Mayor Garcetti,
We hope you can join us to represent your city at this important convening to discuss regional issues.

As leaders in your communities and institutions, you face complex challenges related to homelessness, infrastructure, how to be more inclusive in your economic development efforts, and many other issues. These challenges are becoming more common in the region, and the role of collaboration is becoming increasingly significant. After all, when local leaders work together to address shared issues, they not only uplift their communities, they empower the region and lead the nation.

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ABC Statement on LAUSD Strike

1 message

Alliance for a Better Community <info@afabc.org> Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 1:41 PM
Reply-To: info@afabc.org
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org



Alliance for a Better Community
Statement Calling for Our Leaders to Find a Resolution to the Teachers Strike

Educating our young people is the single most important work that parents and teachers do in our cities. The impasse between LAUSD and UTLA is having a profound impact on over 500,000 of our students served (over 365,000 of whom are Latino), their families, and our schools. Today, teachers feel forced to stand in the rain instead of standing in our classrooms. Teachers deserve fair pay and class sizes that ensure they can teach every single student and our students deserve counselors, nurses and librarians. We call on Superintendent Buetner, UTLA President Caputo-Pearl, Mayor Garcetti, State Superintendent Thurmond, and Governor Newsom to teach our students a valuable lesson – when you vigorously disagree, you can still find a resolution – one that does not bankrupt the district or the future of our kids. And one that supports the needs of our teachers and respects the dedication they bring to their profession.

For nearly 20 years, ABC has fought for more funding for our schools, for historic new schools to be built to ease overcrowding in our community, to improve educational opportunity for English Language Learners, to increase high school graduation rates and ensure a college prep curriculum for all students. Each of these fights impacts the over 430,000 Latino students as well as ALL students in our schools. We will continue to fight for a strong school system that provides opportunity and learning for our

students, while ensuring they are not left behind. Our students, our families, and our cities deserve nothing less.

Vanessa Aramayo
Executive Director

Michele Siqueiros
Board Chair

Robert M. Sainz
Vice Chair

Helen Torres
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Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil
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Dr. Darline P. Robles
Board Member

Angela Sanbrano
Board Member

About Alliance for A Better Community

ABC works to promote the economic prosperity of the Latino community and the Los Angeles region, inclusive of an improved quality of life for Latinos in education, health, and civic participation.

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Revised - ABC Statement on LAUSD Strike

1 message

Alliance for a Better Community <info@afabc.org> Fri, Jan 18, 2019 at 2:04 PM
Reply-To: info@afabc.org
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org



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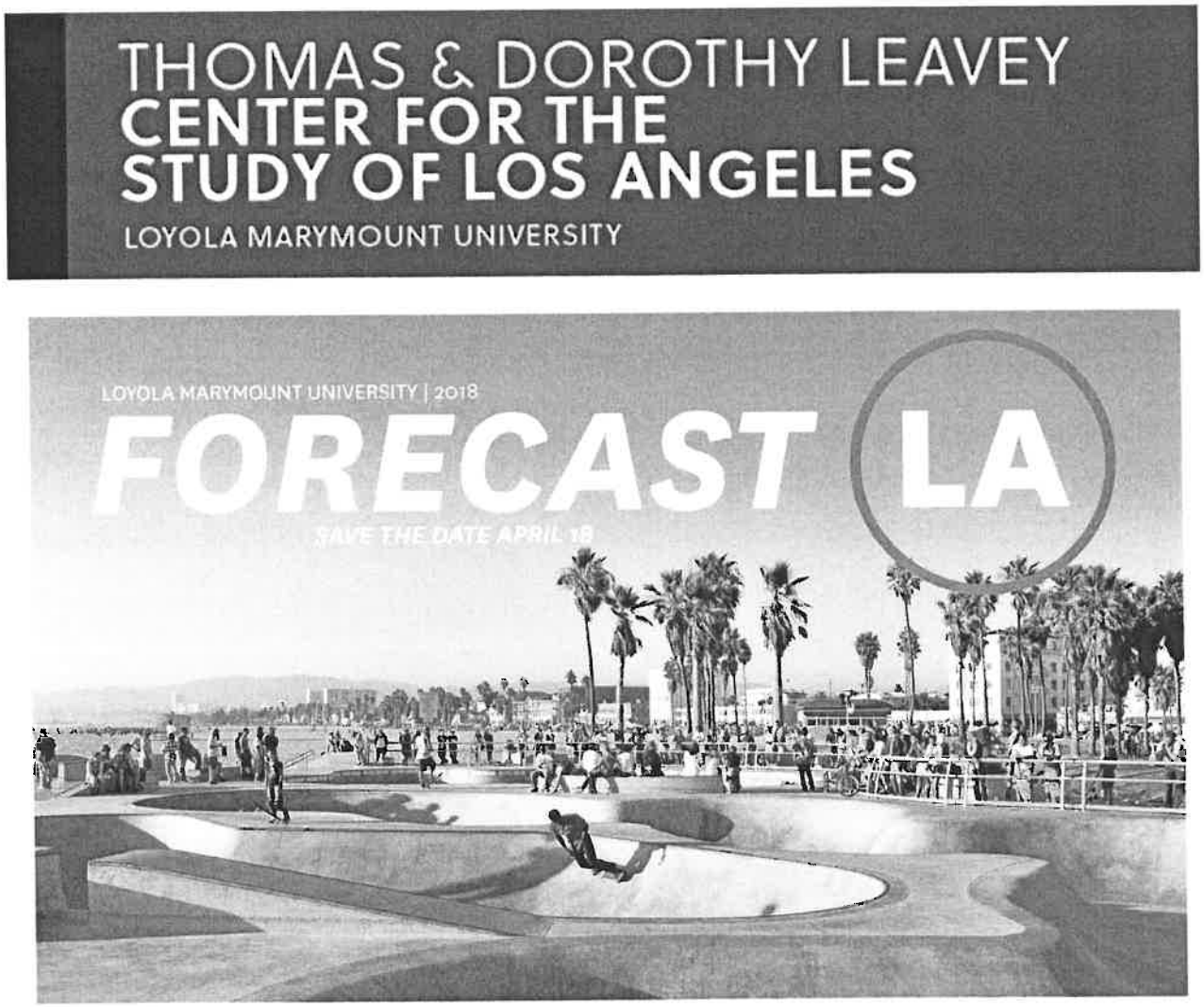
Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

LMU StudyLA's 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 4:44 PM



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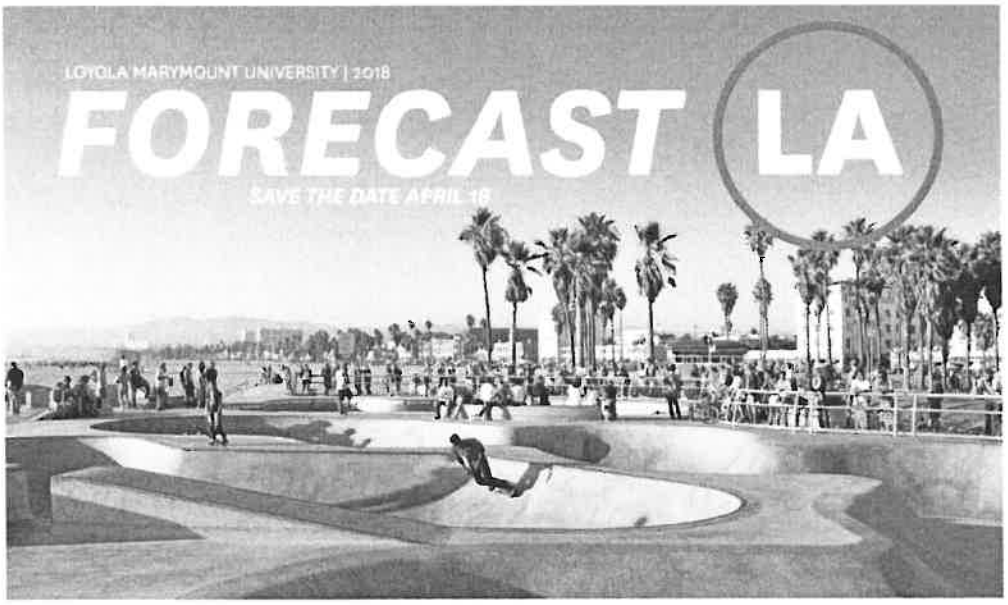
LMU StudyLA's 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference

1 message

William C. Velasquez Institute <enewsletter@wcvi.org> Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 10:57 AM
Reply-To: enewsletter@wcvi.org
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

WCVI William C. Velásquez Institute

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LMU StudyLA's 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference

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LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu> Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 3:10 PM
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

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Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference at Loyola Marymount University



The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University invites you to the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

Event Details
$175 PER PERSON
To purchase tickets click here.

Networking Breakfast: 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Conference Program: 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Burns Recreation Center
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Confirmed speakers include*:

Timothy Law Snyder
President, Loyola Marymount University

Hon. Fiona Ma
Vice Chair, California Board of Equalization

Larry J. Kosmont
President and CEO, Kosmont Companies

Fernando J. Guerra
Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

Brianne Gilbert
Associate Director, Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU

*Additional speakers will be posted as they are confirmed.

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Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference

1 message

LMUstudyLA <studyLA@lmu.edu>
Reply-To: studyLA@lmu.edu
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Thu, Mar 29, 2018 at 11:32 AM

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Join us at the 5th Annual Forecast LA Conference
at Loyola Marymount University!



UPDATE: In addition to our stellar slate of speakers, this year we're excited to announce a partnership with **Marketplace®.** With 14.8 million weekly listeners, Marketplace is on a mission to raise the economic intelligence of the country. Don't miss a panel discussion moderated by Executive Producer Joanne Griffith, providing a comprehensive analysis on current issues and future trends in the Los Angeles Region.

Event Details

$175 PER PERSON
To purchase tickets click here.

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1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Breakfast: 8:00 am - 9:00 am
Program: 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Confirmed Speakers Include:

Timothy Law Snyder
President, Loyola Marymount University

Fiona Ma
Vice Chair, California Board of Equalization

Larry J. Kosmont
President and CEO, Kosmont Companies

Fernando J. Guerra
Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU
Professor, Department of Chicana/o Studies
Professor, Department of Political Science

Brianne Gilbert
Associate Director, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, LMU
Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies
Lecturer, Department of Political Science

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George Mihlsten
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Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>

Message from Bill Allen: 88 Cities Summit Leaders' Exchange

1 message

Propel L.A. - Powered by LAEDC <strategicplan@laedc.org> Tue, Jul 17, 2018 at 3:55 PM
Reply-To: strategicplan@laedc.org
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Propel L.A. 7 GOALS. MANY VOICES. 1 PURPOSE.



Bill Allen, LAEDC CEO

88 CITIES SUMMIT

Regional Collaboration: Addressing Common Challenges

As leaders in your communities and institutions, you face complex challenges related to homelessness, infrastructure, how to be more inclusive in your economic development efforts, and many other issues. These challenges are becoming more common in the region, and the role of collaboration is becoming increasingly significant. After all, when local leaders work together to address shared issues, they not only uplift their communities, they empower the region and lead the nation.

Propel L.A, a division of the LAEDC, invites you as we tackle regional issues and the integral role of collaboration in our 88 Cities Pre-Summit: Leaders' Exchange. Join other mayors, and college and university presidents in an engaging conversation with **the Honorable Julian Castro**, former HUD

Secretary and Mayor of San Antonio, TX, and Dr. Fernando Guerra, Loyola Marymount University, Director of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.
This is a free, invitation-only event.

Join us as we discuss how our local leaders become national leaders, through collaboration and synergy as a region.



88 Cities Summit Leaders' Exchange, featuring Honorable Julian Castro

The Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Former Mayor of San Antonio, TX will engage in a lively discussion with Dr. Fernando Guerra, Loyola Marymount University.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2nd
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
W Hotel, Hollywood
6250 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles, 90028

We look forward to seeing you August 2nd!

REGISTER NOW

Thank you to our Leaders' Exchange Sponsor,
Loyola Marymount University

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Contact us at strategicplan@laedc.org for more information.

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Fwd: Strategic Community Event: Rep Karen Bass, Mayor Garcetti & Harriet Tubman Press Launch

5 messages

Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 12:29 PM
To: Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>, Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>, Mary Hodge <mary.hodge@lacity.org>

[redacted]

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Ana Guerrero** <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Date: Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 12:29 PM
Subject: Re: Strategic Community Event: Rep Karen Bass, Mayor Garcetti & Harriet Tubman Press Launch
To: Kelvin Sauls <revsaulsk@gmail.com>

Good afternoon Reverend Sauls. I haven't seen this one, but it is possible that it didn't get too far into our system because the Mayor is already booked. I am sorry he won't be able to attend. It does sound like an amazing event. I'll make sure our folks properly close this loop. Be well.

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

On Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 8:54 AM, Kelvin Sauls <revsaulsk@gmail.com> wrote:

Ana,
How is your week going. See enclosed info about a strategic event I think MEG would enjoy and enhance. It'll be great for him to join us for the latter part of the program, anytime between 5-6:30p. Apparently a request was submitted to the office. Collin Hinds, the Development Director at LMU, is coordinating the event. His cell # is [redacted] Thanks for your assistance. Blessings,

Rev. Kelvin Sauls
Senior Pastor, Holman UMC
Los Angeles, CA || www.holmanchurch.com
"The gospel at its best deals with the whole person, not only their soul but their body, not only their spiritual well-being, but their material well being. Any religion that professes to be concerned about the souls of people and is not concerned about the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that strangle them and the social conditions that cripple them is a spiritually moribund religion awaiting burial." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr in "Pilgrimage to Non-Violence" in 1960

Reverend Sauls,

Thank you again for agreeing to participate in the final conversation in our program for the launch of the Harriet Tubman Press THIS Saturday, October 14, 3-6pm. As you requested your conversation will begin at 5pm. The focus of your conversation will be social justice and how folks of varying faiths can work together to champion common values that serve and protect the members of our communities.

Yesterday evening, Rep Karen Bass agreed to participate in one of the conversations as will Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas (Leimert Park is in his district). Additionally, KJLH's Kevin Nash will be our emcee and they will be broadcasting live from the event. **We have been working with Mayor Garcetti's office to have him participate in a conversation through LMU's Dr. Fernando Guerra, but he has not confirmed.** Even though he is not to my knowledge the leader of a religious congregation, he would integrate well into your conversation on social justice. Considering the significance of this event and the way it will positively affect L.A. and the national discourse is one that Mayor Garcetti could amplify in a wonderful way. **We need your help in conveying the value of bringing his presence to this dialogue.** Can you speak to him and ask him to join you? If he needs to be towards the beginning of the program we have another conversation that includes Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas and Freedom Rider, Professor Bob Singleton which will also touch on the value of using our voices.

I have included all the information regarding the event below my signature. Please let me know if that is comfortable and appropriate for you. Thank you for your presence and for considering engaging Mayor Garcetti.

God bless,
Collin Hinds
cell [redacted]

Collin L Hinds
Director of Development

University Relations

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Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
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Office 310.338.4549
Email chinds@lmu.edu

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Event Summary

On Saturday, October 14, from 3-6pm, local and national leaders and special guests from the entertainment industry are coming together to encourage the communities they serve. The newly minted, iconic Harriet Tubman Press will host "Our Voices - Stronger Together" and launch its brilliant inaugural book, "Voices of Leimert Park" at an event that will feature conversations facilitated by CNN's Angela Rye. The launch of this historic imprint and the 20th Anniversary of its parent company, TSEHAI Publishers, emphasize the important role diverse voices play in building strong communities.

TSEHAI is the only African-American-owned press housed in an American university (Loyola Marymount University). Operating out of Southern California, TSEHAI founder Elias Wondimu has created a high quality, internationally known and respected brand that is both successful and socially conscious. The launch of the Harriet Tubman Press provides a powerful national platform that we are dedicating to unifying and strengthening communities.

About the Facilitator **Angela Rye**
CNN Political Commentator and NPR Political Analyst


a-rye-headshot-about

Angela Rye is Principal and CEO of IMPACT Strategies, a political advocacy firm in the nation's capital. She is a CNN Political Commentator and NPR Political Analyst. She has been featured as an influential politico, lawyer, and advocate by several publications and outlets from *Marie Claire* to *Ebony* and the *Washington Post*, Rye has an unwavering commitment to ensuring positive change in the political process. Rye is a prominent strategist who has offered on-air commentary for several media outlets including BET, CNN, NBC, HBO, ABC, MSNBC and TV One. The depth of her dialogue ranges from political campaigns to more complex legislation and administration policies that have long-term implications nationally and internationally. She currently serves on the boards of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute, Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee (CBCPAC), the Seattle University School of Law Alumni, Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network, Inclusv, and Wilberforce University. She is a member of The Links, Incorporated, National Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the Washington Government Relations Group.

Rye served as the Executive Director and General Counsel to the Congressional Black Caucusfor the 112th Congress. In her role as Executive Director, Rye was tasked with developing the overall legislative and political strategy for the Caucus. Prior to working for the CBC, she served as Senior Advisor and Counsel to the House Committee on Homeland Security under the leadership of Congressman Bennie G. Thompson. Upon moving to the Nation's Capital, Rye co-founded IMPACT, an nonprofit organization that seeks to encourage young professionals in three core areas: economic empowerment, civic engagement, and political involvement. Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, Rye learned the importance of advocacy through her family's political and community activism. She is a proud graduate of the University of Washington and Seattle University School of Law.

About **Elias Wondimu**
Founder of TSEHAI Publishers and Harriet Tubman Press



Elias Wondimu was born in Addis Ababa, where he spent his childhood and adolescence with his family. In 1994 the nation's turbulent political climate brought him to Los Angeles. Observing the vital role publishing played in shaping culture and political discourse, in 1997 Elias founded his publishing company, TSEHAI Publishers, which is named after and dedicated to his mother, who had passed away in Ethiopia the same year. Since its inception, TSEHAI "has become a vital and indispensable resource [where] Wondimu has assumed the role of cultural ambassador," according to Anthony Miller, writing for *LA Weekly*. Elias never saw TSEHAI as an end in itself, but rather as a means of ensuring that knowledge would be freely accessible to inspire new generations of readers who might otherwise be dejected by their situation.

TSEHAI published its first book in 1998, and from then to 2001 Elias focused on distributing books that were not readily available elsewhere. In 2001, Elias began running TSEHAI Publishers full time. Since then TSEHAI has published over one hundred books, started two academic journals, and founded four imprints. In 2007, TSEHAI joined Loyola Marymount University. In addition to being one of only five black publishers in America, with the closure of the Howard University Press in 2011, TSEHAI became the only African-focused press based in an American, Asian, or European university that is owned by an African-American.

Going forward, Elias still retains his original passion and aim to produce knowledge for the next generation, and TSEHAI continually works to reflect that genuine desire. As noted in an *Ethiopian Review* article, Elias "is widely acknowledged as one of the most active young leaders in the African diaspora and has built a name for service to the community through brokering connections among Americans and Africans, the general public and political leaders, and academia and business." Through the institutions, books, journals, and imprints founded at TSEHAI, Elias encourages the acquisition of knowledge and endeavors to bring quality to the publishing industry for many generations to come.

About the Editor **Shonda Buchanan**
Editor of *Voices from Leimert Park Redux*



Shonda Buchanan is a memoirist, fiction writer, and award-winning poet whose poetry and essays have been featured in numerous esteemed anthologies. An Eloise Klein-Healy Scholarship recipient, a Sundance Institute fellow and a PEN Center Emerging Voice fellow, Shonda has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and several grants from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. She has freelanced for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *LA Weekly*, AWP's the *Writer's Chronicle* and *Indian Country Today*. In 2006, Shonda was the editor of *Voices from Leimert Park*, and eleven years later, she again took on the role of editorial director for the sequel, *Voices from Leimert Park Redux*, a compelling anthology of poems and various other creative writings.

Shonda's first collection of poetry, *Who's Afraid of Black Indians?*, published in 2012, explores the complexities of bi-raciality, and the intersection between Blacks and Native Americans. Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Shonda currently resides in Hampton, Virginia, yet as a voyeur and traveler, she considers herself a citizen of the world. Currently, she is an Education Specialist for the U.S. Department of State, an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing & English, and has been chosen as the Fall 2017 Writer-in-Residence at William & Mary College. Additionally, Shonda is the Literary Editor of the Harriet Tubman Press as she continues to work towards empowering and showcasing the endurance, strength, and perseverance of the African-American experience through the next generation of creatives, leaders, and thinkers.

Media Release

TSEHAI Publishers and Harriet Tubman Press at The Vision Theatre, Leimert Park
Our Voices -- Stronger Together

LOS ANGELES, October 14, 2017 --- TSEHAI Publishers and Loyola Marymount University are hosting "Our Voices -- Stronger Together" where there will be a launch of the first book from the Harriet Tubman Press, *Voices from Leimert Park Redux*, and a celebration of the strength and diversity of the L.A. Community. This celebration will take place at the Vision Theatre in Leimert Park. TSEHAI's 20th anniversary since establishment, its 10th anniversary at LMU, along with the launch of the Harriet Tubman Press will also be celebrated. Media sponsors will include PEN Center USA and LA Review of Books and countless corporate, political and sponsors.

The program will feature conversations with celebrity guests and include one between Elias Wondimu, founder of TSEHAI publishers, and Shonda Buchanan, editor of the Harriet Tubman Press and the press' first book *Voices from Leimert Park Redux.*

WHO: TSEHAI Publishers &
Harriet Tubman Press

WHAT: "Our Voices -- Stronger Together"
Celebration of Community Unity & Book Launch

WHEN: Saturday, October 14, 2017
3:00pm - 6:00pm

WHERE: Leimert Park Plaza
Vision Theatre (Front Terrace)
3341 W. 43rd Place,
Los Angeles, CA 90008

CONTACT: Jasmine Ross
jasmine.ross@lmu.edu

Voices from Leimert Park, Redux
Edited by Shonda Buchanan
Photography by Nick Belohlahvy

 cid:image002.png@01D3338C.6ACB6930

Voices from Leimert Park Redux is a symphony of diverse voices echoing the collective heartbeat of a community. In 2006, *Voices From Leimert Park*revealed one of the best kept secrets of the Los Angeles literary scene: African-American and other writers of color were producing nationally known and respected poetry, fiction, and nonfiction within the Leimert Park literary community. Fast-forward ten years, and although many of the older voices have moved on to literary and academic achievements, new voices have arisen beneath the sinew and tendon of soothsayers and wordsmiths whose legacy is traced back to the legendary Watts Writers Workshop.

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Voices from Leimert Park Redux, again under the editorial direction of Shonda Buchanan, embraces these radical new voices, and then melds them with the well-seasoned tonality of Griots at home, on street corners, and in libraries. This new collection is as vibrant as the smell of patchouli on your skin and as honest as any James Baldwin quote, but certainly this one: "All art is a kind of confession, more or less oblique. All artists, if they are to survive, are forced, at last, to tell the whole story; to vomit the anguish up."

Listen to the *Voices from Leimert Park Redux* and realize that you have just entered that safe place where truth is still being created with every honest breath.

Edited by Shonda Buchanan with photography by Nick Belohlahvy,*Voices from Leimert Park Redux* is a collaborative project featuring the work of 50 contributing artists, and is the first book published by the newest imprint of TSEHAI Publishers of Los Angeles, California, called the Harriet Tubman Press. Following suit with the theme of celebrating Black and people of color voices in the literary world, *Voices from Leimert Park Redux* took the lead in establishing the HTP vision of uncovering hidden narratives by providing a platform for the past, present, and future issues that marginalized communities face in the United States and across the globe.

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TSEHAI Publishers

TSEHAI Publishers was established with the sincere desire to make a difference through curated information and indigenous knowledge production. The passionate efforts made by our small, independent group of dedicated team members aim to fill the void in today's marketplace by illuminating current issues and missing historical links around the globe. At TSEHAI, we enable the full realization of the inherent power of knowledge-based information by creating complete information environments that are reliable, accessible, and handy. While maintaining this high standard for our products, we also provide a forum for first-time authors and the works of underserved writers. Encompassing a broad range of topics and issues rooted in social justice, our affordably priced books are available to all in hopes of creating new possibilities that move the world forward.

Harriet Tubman Press (HTP)

Harriet Tubman Press (HTP) celebrates Black voices in the academy as well as the literary world. HTP publishes introspective academic and creative work to uncover hidden narratives and provide a platform for the historical, present-day, and future issues African Americans face in the United States and across

the globe. TSEHAI has played a large role in the democratization of marginalized voices. For years, we have connected with hundreds of African academics, scholars, and students, giving rise to the voice of Africa. With Harriet Tubman Press, we hope to do the same with the largely underrepresented, or misrepresented, voices of African-Americans. In showcasing the strength, tenacity and perseverance of the African American experience, HTP hopes to empower the next generation of creatives, leaders, and thinkers.

Loyola Marymount University (LMU)

LMU is a private, co-educational university in the Jesuit and Marymount traditions located in the Westchester neighborhood on the Westside of Los Angeles, California. The university is one of 28 member institutions of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and one of five Marymount institutions of higher education. Loyola Marymount University traces its history through Loyola University, founded in 1911 as the successor to St. Vincent's College which was founded in 1865, and Marymount College, founded in 1933 with its roots in Marymount School which was founded in 1923. Loyola Marymount, which sits atop the bluffs overlooking Marina Del Rey and Playa Del Rey is the parent school to Loyola Law School located in downtown Los Angeles. As of 2010, Loyola Marymount is one of the largest Roman Catholic universities on the West Coast with just over 9,000 undergraduate, graduate and law school students.

Collin L Hinds
Director of Development

University Relations

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Mary Hodge <mary.hodge@lacity.org> Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 12:34 PM
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>, Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>

[redacted]

--

Mary Hodge
Chief of Operations
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
work: 213-922-9749
mary.hodge@lacity.org

[Quoted text hidden]

Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org> Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 12:49 PM
To: Mary Hodge <mary.hodge@lacity.org>
Cc: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>, Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

[redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]
--

Jessica M. Caloza
Director of Scheduling
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
(213) 922-9747

Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 1:00 PM
To: Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>
Cc: Mary Hodge <mary.hodge@lacity.org>, Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

[redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]

Mary Hodge <mary.hodge@lacity.org> Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 1:06 PM
To: Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>
Cc: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>, Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

[redacted]

--

Mary Hodge
Chief of Operations
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
work: 213-922-9749

Connect Create Collaborate

Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

Re: Follow-up on Meeting with Fernando Guerra

3 messages

Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 11:13 AM
To: "Gilbert, Brianne" <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu>
Cc: Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

He'd love to do it. Unfortunately, he's already booked solid on the 18th. If appropriate I can suggest senior members of our staff that could take the Mayor's place. Let me know if Fernando is interested.

Eric Garcetti
Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

On Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 10:03 AM, Gilbert, Brianne <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu> wrote:

Hi Ana,

I hope your day is going well. As a follow-up to your meeting with Fernando yesterday, we wanted to see if Mayor Garcetti would be interested in being on an upcoming panel at LMU on April 18th (10:15 to 11:15).

As you know, every year we hold our annual Forecast LA conference where we release the results of our big public opinion survey. This year we are partnering with Marketplace (a radio program geared at business topics, financial trends, innovation, tech, etc.…they are on NPR and have almost 15 million listeners a week). Joanne Griffith, the executive producer of Marketplace Weekend, will be moderating a panel of local execs discussing Silicon Beach. Specifically we were thinking the Mayor could speak to why LA is encouraging more tech business here and how this plays out in education and attracting the next generation of workers (or he could talk about a whole slew of other ideas and initiatives he has regarding the tech sector).

Thoughts? Do you think this would be something he would be interested in doing, and then is he available?

Thanks so much!
Bri

Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director,
Thomas and Dorothy Leavey

Center for the Study of Los Angeles

Lecturer, Department of Political Science
Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies

University Hall 4114
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
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Office 310.338.1779

Mobile [redacted]

Email brianne.gilbert@lmu.edu

Twitter @researcherbri



LMU | LA
Loyola Marymount University

Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org> Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 11:15 AM
To: Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>

FYI

Office of Scheduling
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.978.0600 | mayor.scheduling@lacity.org

[Quoted text hidden]

Gilbert, Brianne <Brianne.Gilbert@lmu.edu> Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 12:43 PM
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

Hi Ana,

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. Having a senior member of the staff on the panel talking about tech and innovation would be great! Please let me know what next step I should take to make that happen.

Thanks again!
Bri

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Brianne Gilbert

Associate Director,
Thomas and Dorothy Leavey

Center for the Study of Los Angeles

Lecturer, Department of Political Science
Lecturer, Department of Urban and Environmental Studies

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Office 310.338.1779

Mobile [redacted]

Email brianne.gilbert@lmu.edu

Twitter @researcherbri

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Connect Create Collaborate

Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

Fwd: 88 Cities Summit - SAVE THE DATE!

5 messages

Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org> Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 5:57 PM
To: Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **William Chun** <william.chun@lacity.org>
Date: Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 5:56 PM
Subject: Re: 88 Cities Summit - SAVE THE DATE!
To: Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>

[redacted]

Billy Chun
Deputy Mayor of Economic Development
Mayor Eric Garcetti
(213) 978-6397

On Apr 30, 2018, at 4:15 PM, Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> wrote:

[redacted]

Eric Garcetti #MayorOfLA

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

On Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 4:12 PM, Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org> wrote:

[redacted]

On Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 3:57 PM, Ana Guerrero <ana.guerrero@lacity.org> wrote:

[redacted]

Eric Garcetti #MayorOfLA

Ana Guerrero
Chief of Staff
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
[redacted]

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Guerra, Fernando** <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>
Date: Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 10:34 AM
Subject: 88 Cities Summit - SAVE THE DATE!
To: "ana.guerrero@lacity.org" <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>
Cc: Lali DeAztlan <Lali@deaztlangroup.com>

Ana,

Do you know if Eric is planning to attend this gathering?

Fernando

From: Propel L.A. - Powered by LAEDC <strategicplan@laedc.org>
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Guerra, Fernando <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>
Subject: 88 Cities Summit - SAVE THE DATE!



SAVE THE DATE!

88 Cities Summit

June 20, 2018

Propel L.A., powered by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), invites you to attend a regional convening of the 88 Cities within Los Angeles County. The **88 Cities Summit** will take place on Wednesday, June 20 from 8:00AM–3:00PM.

This is a first of its kind regional convening, to bring together key economic development stakeholders from the region, to hear from national leaders. Learn and share regional and local best practices on common issues such as transportation, infrastructure, workforce development, homelessness, and housing.

For more information, contact us at strategicplan@laedc.org

Propel L.A. is the 2016-2020 Countywide Strategic Plan of the LAEDC, centered around 7 Goals, developed by Many Voices, with 1 Purpose:

to capture the many voices to propel economic impact and equity.

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Jessica M. Caloza
Director of Scheduling
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
(213) 922-9747

--

Jessica M. Caloza
Director of Scheduling
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
(213) 922-9747

Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org> Mon, May 21, 2018 at 2:37 PM
To: William Chun <william.chun@lacity.org>, Sumi Parekh <sumi.parekh@lacity.org>, Christina Guimera <christina.guimera@lacity.org>

[redacted]

Office of Scheduling
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.978.0600 | mayor.scheduling@lacity.org

[Quoted text hidden]

William Chun <william.chun@lacity.org> Wed, May 23, 2018 at 7:47 PM
To: Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>
Cc: Sumi Parekh <sumi.parekh@lacity.org>, Christina Guimera <christina.guimera@lacity.org>

[redacted]

Billy Chun
Deputy Mayor of Economic Development
Mayor Eric Garcetti
(213) 978-6397

[Quoted text hidden]

Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org> Thu, May 24, 2018 at 10:11 AM
To: William Chun <william.chun@lacity.org>
Cc: Sumi Parekh <sumi.parekh@lacity.org>, Christina Guimera <christina.guimera@lacity.org>

[redacted]

Office of Scheduling
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.978.0600 | mayor.scheduling@lacity.org

[Quoted text hidden]

Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org> Thu, May 24, 2018 at 10:11 AM
To: Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>, Heleen Ramirez <Heleen.Ramirez@lacity.org>

[redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]

Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

Fwd: Election Central Watch Party, Tuesday Nov. 6, 5:30pm

2 messages

Jessica Caloza <jessica.caloza@lacity.org> Mon, Oct 22, 2018 at 12:49 PM
To: Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jessica Caloza** <jessica.caloza@lacity.org>
Date: Mon, Oct 22, 2018 at 12:47 PM
Subject: Re: Election Central Watch Party, Tuesday Nov. 6, 5:30pm
To: "Kempler, Alex" <Alex.Kempler@lmu.edu>
Cc: "ana.guerrero@lacity.org" <ana.guerrero@lacity.org>

Hi Alex,

We hope this finds you well. Thanks so much for following up and for thinking of the Mayor. We'll let you know if he's able to join. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Jessica

Jessica M. Caloza
Director of Scheduling
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
(213) 922-9747

On Mon, Oct 22, 2018 at 12:43 PM, Kempler, Alex <Alex.Kempler@lmu.edu> wrote:

> Hi Ana and Jessica,
>
> I wanted to make sure Mayor Garcetti received an invite to StudyLA's Election Central Watch Party (details below). Hope to see you there!
>
> Best,
>
> Alex
>
> **Alex Kempler**
>
> **Research Assistant,**
> **Thomas and Dorothy Leavey**
> **Center for the Study of Los Angeles**

University Hall 4116
1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90045-2659
www.lmu.edu/studyLA | Privacy + Legal

Office 310.338.5254

Mobile [redacted]

Email alex.kempler@lmu.edu

Twitter @alexkempler



LMU | LA
Loyola Marymount University



LA's Election Watch Party

Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 5:30-8:30 pm
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes
501 North Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free and open to the public

Complimentary food and drink

Join us as we learn which elected officials will shape the future of Los Angeles, the State, and the Nation.

For more information and to RSVP go here.







This email was sent by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (studyLA@lmu.edu).

Thomas and Dorothy Leavey
Center for the Study of Los Angeles
1 LMU Drive, Suite 4119
Los Angeles, CA 90045
studyLA@lmu.edu
lmu.edu/studyLA

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1 LMU Drive
Los Angeles, CA | 90045 US

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emma

--

Jessica M. Caloza
Director of Scheduling
Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti
(213) 922-9747

Mayor Scheduling <mayor.scheduling@lacity.org> Mon, Nov 5, 2018 at 3:12 PM
To: Alex.Kempler@lmu.edu

Good afternoon Alex,

Thank you again for thinking of Mayor Garcetti and for inviting him to attend your election night watch party. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, we are very sorry to inform you that the Mayor will not be able to attend. The Mayor sends his sincere regrets and best wishes.

Thank you for your understanding, and have a nice day.

Sincerely,
Thomas

Office of Scheduling
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.978.0600 | mayor.scheduling@lacity.org

[Quoted text hidden]

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6 attachments

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2K

Barbara Romero <barbara.romero@lacity.org>

Antonio Gonzalez Invites You to Get Foursome at Latin@ Mayors Golf Classic on June 23

1 message

Antonio Gonzalez <agonzalez@svrep.org> Tue, Jun 6, 2017 at 2:00 PM
Reply-To: agonzalez@svrep.org
To: James Acevedo <[redacted]>, Andre Quintero <[redacted]>, Antonio Vazquez <[redacted], Andre Quintero [redacted], Omar Brownson <obrownson@larivercorp.com>, Glenn Backes <[redacted]>, "barbara.romero@lacity.org" <barbara.romero@lacity.org>, Juan Contreras <[redacted]>, Arturo Chavez <[redacted]>, cdelarocha@altamed.org, Arturo Carmona <[redacted]>, Luis de la Calle <[redacted]>, Claridge <ricardo@claridgeproperty.com>, Scott Drexel <scott@nmapartners.com>, DeAna Vitela-Hayashi <[redacted]>, Kevin de Leon <[redacted]>, Kevin De Leon <[redacted]>, Efrain Escobedo <eescobedo@calfund.org>, edgar@edgarfloresnv.com, "fguerra@lmu.edu" <fguerra@lmu.edu>, "Guerra, Fernando" <Fernando.Guerra@lmu.edu>, Armando Gudino <agudino@drugpolicy.org>, Art Gastelum <agastelum@gateway-sci-eng.com>, Latina Golfers Association <[redacted]>, hazel ortega <[redacted]>, Hal Dash <hal@cerrell.com>, "Zachary I. Gonzalez, Jr." <[redacted]>, Karla Hernandez <khernandez@calfund.org>, Irma Munoz <irma.munoz@mujeresdelatierra.org>, Joe Perez <joe@cubatravelservices.com>, Kevin Shenkman <[redacted]>, Kevin Shenkman <kishenkman@shenkmanhughes.com>, Stephen Kaufman <skaufman@kaufmanlegalgroup.com>, Laura Santos <[redacted]>, Leticia Aguilar <Leticia.Aguilar@unionbank.com>, Mark Vargas <mark@mark-vargas.com>, Sam Pedroza <spedroza@ci.claremont.ca.us>, Rebecca Barrantes <rbarrantes@thesierragrp.com>, Richard Meruelo <[redacted]>, Richard Meruelo <[redacted]>, Ruben Smith <rsmith@alvaradosmith.com>, Raul Salinas <rsalinas@alvaradosmith.com>, Scott Maloni <smaloni@poseidonwater.com>, Gary Townsend <gary@ekapr.com>, Walter Ulloa <wulloa@entravision.com>, Tonia Uranga <[redacted]>, Aura <[redacted]>, Graham Williams <graham@10milecapital.com>, Graham Williams <gwilliams@grailpartners.com>, Xavier Gutierrez <xgutierrez@meruelogroup.com>, Xavier Flores <flores@pys.org>, Angela Acosta-Salazar <[redacted]>, Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez <[redacted]>, Armando Yepes <[redacted]>, Jackie Z <[redacted] Sandra Armenta <[redacted] achaves@parkpca.com, Adan Ortega Jr <[redacted], Adan Ortega Jr <[redacted]>, "[redacted]", Austin Beutner <[redacted]>, Mario Beltran <mario@principiagroupllc.com>, "Gotlieb, Larry" <lgotlieb@kbhome.com>, mcordero@fmc.gov, Enrique Arevalo <[redacted]>, jamie casso <jcasso@cassosparks.com>, jcasso@lawross.com, Jamie Casso <jcasso@rosscasso.com>, JAMIES Casso <jcasso@meyersnave.com>, "Leavenworth, Deane" <[redacted]>, ken maxey <[redacted]>, "Giles, Johnnie" <[redacted]>, Jimmy Blackman <jimmy@jimmyblackman.com>, Jimmy Blackman <[redacted]>, roberto.uranga@longbeach.gov, ROBERT BUSH <[redacted]>, jimmy@jimmygomezforcongreso.com, Jim Gonzalez <jim@jimgonzalez.com>, andrew stein <[redacted]>, Andrew Kingman <akingman@poseidonwater.com>, Arturo Montez <[redacted]>, Carlos Viramontes <cjv@parkpca.com>, David Cordero <David@communicationslab.com>, Eddie Arslanian <EArslanian@ramboll.com>, Frankie Quintero <[redacted]>, Frank Quevedo <[redacted]>, [redacted] Darcie Harris <darcie@darcieharris.com>, Harvey Englander <harvey@englanderpr.com>, José de Jesús Legaspi <jlegaspi@thelegaspi.com>, Jerry Ruiz <jruiz@alvaradosmith.com>, Kelly Candaele <[redacted]>, Ricardo Lara <[redacted]>, Larry Herrera <[redacted]>, Larry Ortega <[redacted]>, Mike Madrid <madrid@grassrootslab.com>, Mike Eng <[redacted]>, Michael Flores <[redacted]>, Neftali Galarza <[redacted]>, Nelson Del Rio <nelson@delrioloundation.org>, "Norma E. Garcia" <negarcia@parks.lacounty.gov>, Hilary Norton <HNorton@tpgre.com>, "Gonzales, Oscar" <Oscar.Gonzales@osec.usda.gov>, Rex Parris <rrparris@rrexparris.com>, Paul Alva <PALVA@dpw.lacounty.gov>, Ron Gastelum <[redacted]>, "Garcia, Ron" <rong@ci.brea.ca.us>, "Jauregui, Ron" <RJauregui@fdic.gov>, Rick Olivarez <ROlivarez@omlawyers.com>, Rick Olivarez <rolivarez@ogplaw.com>, Rickk Montoya <[redacted]>, Roy Jasoo <jassor@wellsfargo.com>, RANDY JURADO ERTLL <[redacted]>, Sam Jammal <sjammal@solarcity.com>, Samuel Paz

[redacted], "Shaw, Helen Romero" <HShaw@semprautilities.com>, Vic Griego <victor@victorgriego.com>, "Franco, Victor" <victor@ek-ek.com>, Victor Franco [redacted]
Cc: Vilma Guillen <vguillen@wcvi.org>

SVREP Friends and Golfers,

Please take this oportuity to join SoCal Latin@ Mayors and SVREP for a round of golf on June 23 at the SoCal Latin@ Mayors Golf Classic. The details are on below on registration and pricing.

Proceeds will go towards nonpartisan voter education activities in over 40 SoCal cities that SVREP is helpfing to transition to district elections in which Latino voters can elect candidates of choice. Wit h your support we are providing nonpartisan training for candidates and organizers and supporting districting committees in 2017. In 2018 we'll be conducting non partisan VR in these cities together with local leaders.

Beyond CA SVREP is helping fight for immigrant rights by mobilizing the Latino voting in the 2018 Congressional and Senate races.

Our goal is race at least $50,000 from the tournament so please get a foursome or play individually.

I really hope to see you on June 23. Let me know,

Best,

Antonio Gonzalez,
SVREP President
[redacted]

SVREP

SOUTHWEST VOTER REGISTRATION EDUCATION PROJECT

Join Us For The SU VOTO ES SU VOZ

SoCal Latin@ Mayors Golf Classic

June 23, 2017

Montebello Country Club
901 Via San Clemente
Montebello, CA 90640

12:00 Lunch & Registration

1:00pm Shotgun Start



Albert Robles
Mayor
City of Carson



Andre Quintero
Mayor
City of El Monte



Hank Trimble
Mayor
City of Hawaiian Gardens



Sally Zuniga Flowers
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Artesia





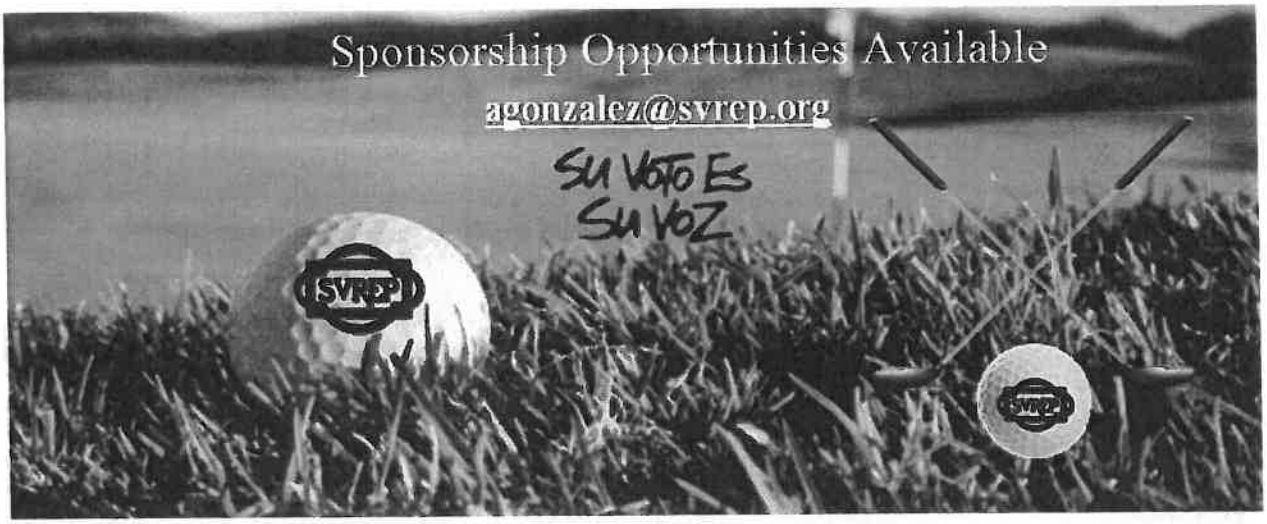
Sam Pedroza
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Barbara Romero <barbara.romero@lacity.org>

SoCal Mayors Quintero, Robles and Archuleta invite you to SoCal Latin@ Mayors Policy Seminar and Golf Classic on Friday 6-23!

1 message

William C. Velasquez Institute <enewsletter@wcvi.org> Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 12:14 PM
Reply-To: enewsletter@wcvi.org
To: barbara.romero@lacity.org

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SO CAL LATINO MAYORS POLICY SEMINAR AND GOLF CLASSIC

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

MONTEBELLO COUNTRY CLUB
850 VIA SAN CLEMENTE
MONTEBELLO, CALIFORNIA 90640

8:00 A.M. Coffee and Registration

Schedule & Invited Speakers

9:00 A.M.: Political Empowerment and Political Persecution in LA County



Hon. Chris Garcia
Mayor
City of Cudahy



Hon. Maria T. Santillan-Beas
Mayor
City of Lynwood



Hon. Albert Robles
Mayor
City of Carson



Mr. Fernando Guerra
Director of the Center for Study of Los Angeles
Loyola Marymount University

10:30 A. M.: Economic Development: The Cases of El Monte and Pico Rivera



Hon. Bob J. Archuleta
Mayor
City of Pico Rivera



Hon. Andre Quintero
Mayor
City of El Monte

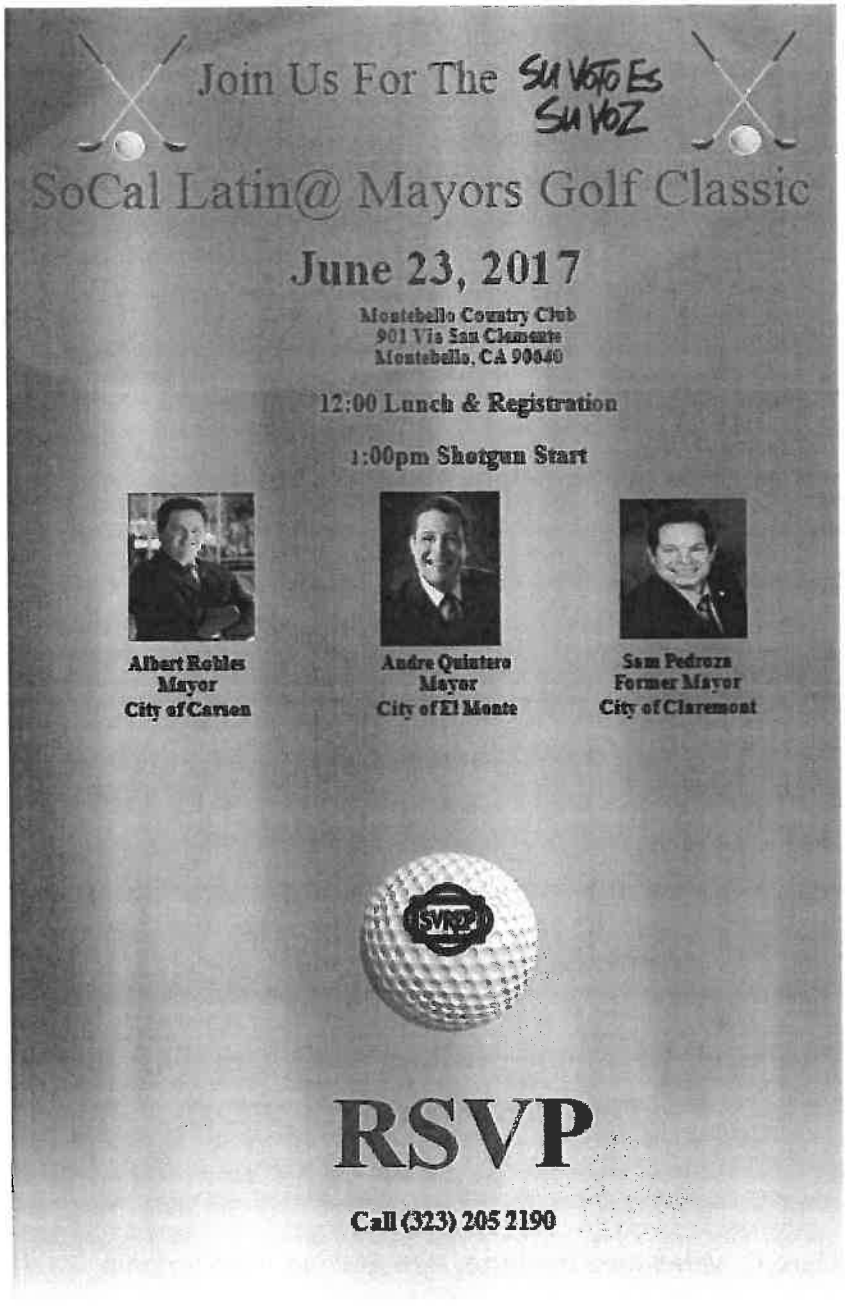
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Barbara Romero <barbara.romero@lacity.org>

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org> Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 8:00 AM
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti
LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

LA Daily News
Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?
By: Kevin Modesti

At the City Hall press conference in January where **Eric Garcetti** took the unusual step of announcing that he was not a candidate for president, a reporter asked if he was ruling out a White House run forever or only in 2020.

The silly question drew a silly answer.

"Garcetti 2040! I'd like to say that right now," the Los Angeles mayor said, laughing.

It's pretty obvious that Garcetti aspires to run for president in a year to be determined.

The serious question is what the 48-year-old Democrat could and should aspire to do between now and then.

Speaking with Southern California News Group editorial board members and reporters on March 11, Garcetti was asked if he'd rather be California governor or a U.S. senator, offices for which his name was floated before the 2018 elections won by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Garcetti said he loves an executive role like mayor and governor, but then bluntly expressed his interest in one of the state's two U.S. Senate positions.

"I would look at that seriously if a Senate seat opened up," Garcetti said.

Re-elected in 2017 with a record 81.4 percent of the vote, Garcetti has four years to go in what he calls a "supersized second term," which lasts until July 2022 because of L.A.'s decision to move city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal balloting.

But speculation about his future abounds, given Garcetti's relative youth, the prominence that comes with being mayor of a city of 4 million people, and his pointed refusal to rule out leaving City Hall early to pursue higher office.

"The sky is the limit," said Wendy Greuel, who was an L.A. city councilwoman and city controller when Garcetti was a city councilman, and lost to Garcetti in the 2013 runoff for mayor. "He's dynamic. He's inspiring. He's someone who's going to continue to be a leader on the national stage."

Possibilities

One problem with rising to prominence as mayor of a city as big as L.A. is that there aren't too many ways to rise higher. There's governor, U.S. senator and president. Everything else is a move sideways or a step down.

"You go up. You don't go down," said Fernando Guerra, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, channeling a politician's thinking.

Guerra said the possibilities for Garcetti begin with a U.S. Senate bid because that's the higher-profile office likely to open up next.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein was re-elected in 2018, so her term expires after the 2024 election. She'd be 91 then, and would be expected to retire, though she wouldn't be required to. The timing would be perfect for Garcetti.

Sen. Kamala Harris was elected in 2016, so she'd be up for re-election in 2022. But she's a contender for the Democratic nomination for president, and she'd leave the Senate if she won the presidency. Garcetti almost certainly would be willing to leave the mayor's office early for Harris' job.

If either senator left office early, California law would require Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a replacement, who would serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide election. The appointee could run in the election and probably would have a leg up on any challengers.

Observers think the list of people Newsom would consider might include Garcetti, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Dublin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

A run for governor was a possibility for Garcetti until he decided in October 2017 not to enter the already-crowded 2018 race. Now, with Newsom eligible for a second term in 2022, Garcetti wouldn't challenge a fellow Democrat.

Then, Guerra said, there are "lateral" moves that couldn't be ruled out.

-If a Democrat wins the White House, Garcetti could be considered for a cabinet post, running a federal department. Guerra said the most likely for an ex-mayor would be secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), secretary of Transportation, or secretary of Energy.

-Another option in a Democratic administration: Garcetti as ambassador to the United Nations or a foreign country. Garcetti likes to remind listeners about his foreign-policy chops, given his Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and teaching on the subject at Occidental College and USC, his work in military intelligence as a Navy Reserve lieutenant, and the overseas interactions of an L.A. mayor.

-A statewide office below governor. But secretary of state and state controller are the only two that would be open in 2022, as Garcetti's mayoral term expires. "I don't think either of those positions is appealing to him," Guerra said.

-The L.A. County Board of Supervisors. But the only two seats up for election in 2022 are held by Democrats eligible for another term.

For Garcetti to keep an eventual presidential run in his sights, Guerra said, "He has to stay in the game. Out of sight, out of mind."

National view

While testing the presidential waters, Garcetti took 12 trips to 10 different states to campaign for at least 21 candidates around the country. In the process, he raised $2.6 million for Democratic efforts through his political action and campaign committees, fundraising events and fundraising emails, according to Yusef Robb, his political adviser.

Garcetti insists he didn't decide not to run because he couldn't win, but because he felt he couldn't campaign while running a major city.

His supporters hope he can influence the Democratic race from the sidelines.

One way he could do that is with an endorsement before the March 3, 2020 California primary. Speaking with SCNG editorial board members and reporters at the Los Angeles Daily News' office in Woodland Hills, Garcetti said he's likely to pick from among five candidates he counts as "close friends." He named them in this order: New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Harris, former Vice President Joe Biden, and former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro.

Garcetti also can play the role of rainmaker, connecting candidates with campaign contributors in the L.A. area.

And Garcetti could seek to shape the Democratic platform through efforts such as Accelerator for America, the non-profit he founded with Rick Jacobs in 2017 that calls itself "the R&D arm of cities and mayors," promoting city-style transit and infrastructure projects and economic development to the nation.

Oh, and he can continue to do his job as mayor.

L.A.'s 42nd mayor will be out of office before supporters and critics see the upshot of what Garcetti touts as his biggest accomplishments, such as the 2016 passage of county Measure M (approving a half-cent sales tax to fund mass-transit projects) and city Proposition HHH (approving $1.2 billion in bonds to 10,000 units of housing for the chronically homeless), and securing the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Critics argue that Garcetti has done little to earn consideration for higher office, and cite rampant homelessness as a sign of his ineffectiveness.

"None of that stuff comes to fruition," David Hernandez, a Republican activist in the San Fernando Valley who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 2018, said of Garcetti's promises about reducing homelessness and traffic deaths.

Hernandez added: "In spite of my opinion of his track record, he would be someone to contend with (in a statewide election). He's got the young Beto (O'Rourke), (Barack) Obama charisma. He can be Jewish when he wants to be, he can be Hispanic when he wants to be. He's out of Central Casting."

Hernandez said he expects Feinstein to retire early to allow Newsom to appoint Garcetti to the Senate.

Such speculation aside, Garcetti supporters see him riding high, his stature raised and voters' appetites whetted by the mere speculation about a presidential run and his role in ending the teachers' strike largely praised.

So, what now?

Robb said Garcetti will answer the question "when the time is right," but for now, "from the platform of the mayor's office he is serving his constituents in a way that sets models for the rest of the state and the rest of the country."

Said Garcetti: "I'm not one of those politicians, to my probably discredit, who thinks very far ahead. It has to feel right to me, and not be about a careful plot and plan."

If it ends with a presidential run in 2040, Garcetti will have the last laugh.

--

Eric Garcetti
@MayorOfLA

Cate Hurley | Executive Assistant to the Mayor
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-0741 (Office)

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 10:55 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Eric Garcetti
@MayorOfLA

Riki Esquer
Executive Assistant
Mayor's Office of City Services
(213) 978-0724

Barbara Romero <barbara.romero@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org> Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:16 AM
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti

LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
LA TIMES: In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
LA TIMES: Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost $25 million in attendance, but saved $10 million in wages
LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain
REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president
REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
LA TIMES: With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
LA DAILY NEWS: Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall
LAIST: LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
LA TACO: 'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
SCNG: Opinion: As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
LA TIMES: Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
FIVE THIRTY EIGHT: How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
ASSOCIATED PRESS: Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago
THRILLIST: Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

LA Times

L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more

oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from "Jane the Virgin," Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"The strike has strong support across the board," said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. "These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life."

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

"We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home," Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing $10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost $25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That's a net loss of $15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

"Very little in the way of educational activity," Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. "At one point, they tried to show the movie 'Christopher Robin,' but the sound quality was so bad it couldn't be understood. Couldn't read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything."

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. "We kept him home today," she said of her son, "and probably will for the rest of the week."

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers "heroes."

"Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids' side," García said. "We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike."

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

"As I've said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I'll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this," he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted

questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

"This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles," said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of "looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We've got to change that."

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times
In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia,

Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times
Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve

the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposalunveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: The Hill, Daily Mail

LA Daily News
LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost $25 million in attendance, but saved $10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher rentention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need

our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about $25 million, and saved $10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates $68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and librarians. https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464 …

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing … We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most

recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA – skeptical of claims that the district's $1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reitereated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At at school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution ... in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that LosAngeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says $15 million was lost by the district yesterday: $25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved $10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLAnow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: KNX 1070

Reuters
Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion
Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: Telemundo

Reuters
Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinitiate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost $130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost $800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages $75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News
'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of

normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly $9 billion and L.A. Unified has $1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which includedactions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with $1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether its a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times
With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodmon, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal

wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,' " said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News
Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall
By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist
LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco
'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and a led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group
As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs.

Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest services."

The warrant also seeks "all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors" and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others "assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, "the scandal is what's legal."

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used "straw donors" to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave $60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The "Committee for a Safer Los Angeles" was an entity called an "independent expenditure committee." Garcetti's adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was "barely aware" of it and had "nothing" to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of "behested payments," unlimited contributions that are made at the "behest" of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has "behested" over $41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for $1 million to the "Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles," and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave $3 million to the "Los Angeles Parks Foundation" at Garcetti's request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price "behested" over $245,000 for the "Coalition for Responsible Community Development," which has a stated mission to "improve local planning."

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he'd have a building named after him.

LA Times
Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than $1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly $2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than $1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that's about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really "cost-neutral" as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential reportfrom then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, "because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants."

"It's frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on," said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. "The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments," Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight
How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an "inevitable" frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.1

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our "five corners" series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The "five corners" refers to what we claim are the the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters2; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid.What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of

candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries3 could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press
Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and $25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

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THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

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DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

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DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

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LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist
Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend
By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch#WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothepolls.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own -- let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...

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Eric Garcetti #lamayor

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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:56 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti
LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
LA TIMES: In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
LA TIMES: Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost $25 million in attendance, but saved $10 million in wages
LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain
REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president
REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
LA TIMES: With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
LA DAILY NEWS: Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall
LAIST: LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
LA TACO: 'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
SCNG: Opinion: As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
LA TIMES: Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
FIVE THIRTY EIGHT: How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
ASSOCIATED PRESS: Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago
THRILLIST: Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

LA Times
L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union

to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from "Jane the Virgin," Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"The strike has strong support across the board," said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. "These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life."

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

"We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home," Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing $10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost $25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That's a net loss of $15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

"Very little in the way of educational activity," Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. "At one point, they tried to show the movie 'Christopher Robin,' but the sound quality was so bad it couldn't be understood. Couldn't read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything."

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. "We kept him home today," she said of her

son, "and probably will for the rest of the week."

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers "heroes."

"Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids' side," García said. "We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike."

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

"As I've said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I'll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this," he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

"This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles," said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of "looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We've got to change that."

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times
In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times
Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposalunveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses … all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child … gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: The Hill, Daily Mail

LA Daily News
LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost $25 million in attendance, but saved $10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher rentention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about $25 million, and saved $10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates $68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and librarians. https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464 …

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing … We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA – skeptical of claims that the district's $1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reitereated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At at school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution … in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that LosAngeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says $15 million was lost by the district yesterday: $25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved $10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLAnow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: KNX 1070

Reuters
Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion
Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million

students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: Telemundo

Reuters
Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinitiate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was

focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost $130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost $800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages $75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News
'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that

20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly $9 billion and L.A. Unified has $1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which includedactions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with $1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether its a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times
With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodmon, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,' " said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News
Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall
By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles

City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist
LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan

Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco
'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and a led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on

Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group
As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest services."

The warrant also seeks "all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors" and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others "assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, "the scandal is what's legal."

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used "straw donors" to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave $60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The "Committee for a Safer Los Angeles" was an entity called an "independent expenditure committee." Garcetti's adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was "barely aware" of it and had "nothing" to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of "behested payments," unlimited contributions that are made at the "behest" of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has "behested" over $41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for $1 million to the "Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles," and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave $3

million to the "Los Angeles Parks Foundation" at Garcetti's request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price "behested" over $245,000 for the "Coalition for Responsible Community Development," which has a stated mission to "improve local planning."

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he'd have a building named after him.

LA Times
Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than $1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly $2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than $1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that's about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really "cost-neutral" as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential reportfrom then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, "because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants."

"It's frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on," said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. "The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments," Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight
How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an "inevitable" frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.1

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our "five corners" series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The "five corners" refers to what we claim are the the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters2; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid.What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries3 could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press
Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and $25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

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THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there

was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

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DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

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DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

—

LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings

ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist
Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend
By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

--

Eric Garcetti #MayorOfLA
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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org> Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 6:55 AM
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti
UNIVISION: Alcalde de Los Ángeles promociona la ciudad para atraer el turismo mexicano (VIDEO ONLY)
POLITICO: 'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight
LA TIMES: Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum
LA TIMES: Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing
MERCURY NEWS: Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president
SFV BUSINESS JOURNAL: VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport
JEWISH JOURNAL: Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism

Politico
'This is creepy': In LA, scooters become the next data privacy fight
By: Jeremy B. White

OAKLAND — The next big political fight over data privacy may center on an unlikely piece of technology: The scooters currently flying around streets and scattered on sidewalks in cities across the country.

And as always, it's brewing first in California, the state that last year enacted a landmark consumer privacy law that's roiling Silicon Valley and Washington policymakers.

In Los Angeles, a dispute over how the city manages data embedded in Uber-operated scooters has emerged as a leading-edge privacy issue, foreshadowing a debate over the government's role in managing sensitive data in a new era of connected transit.

City officials want granular location information on thousands of dockless scooters that are proliferating in the sprawling southern California metropolis. They say it's critical to know what's happening in their streets and ensure people are being served equitably.

But Uber's dockless vehicle company, JUMP, is pushing back, arguing that the scale of data Los Angeles wants poses a menace to personal privacy.

In a letter to Los Angeles Department of Transportation manager Seleta Reynolds, the company warned of "an unprecedented level of surveillance, oversight, and control that LADOT would wield over private companies and individual citizens." (Reynolds responded that those concerns were "uninformed, and therefore, falsely characterize" the situation.)

The clash opens another chapter in a long-running conflict between cities and mobility companies, like Uber, that previously sought to aggressively expand before getting official approval. Uber and Lyft have for years sparred with cities over access to what the companies consider valuable proprietary information.

Skeptics of Uber's motives note that companies already collect huge amounts of personal data, and not always with positive results: Uber reached a $148 million settlement with California earlier this year over a massive breach of consumer information.

But Uber's letter hits on a larger concern about government's expanding role in tracking how people move around. Privacy advocates say that location data is especially sensitive given that it can reveal a person's movements and private transactions — all the more so given that dockless vehicles can take a person directly to or from their home or business.

"I think it's the big privacy issue of the next few years," said Joseph Jerome, policy counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology's data and privacy project. "This sort of combination of private data in public hands is

going to be a bigger and bigger issue, and when it's geolocation there are some particular questions."

Former Los Angeles Assemblyman Mike Gatto, who oversaw a nascent committee devoted to privacy, recounted Department of Motor Vehicles officials talking about persistent hacking attempts and police officers improperly accessing state databases.

Gatto warned that when government agencies create public databases, "law enforcement has the ability to access it, and they will."

A LADOT spokesperson said the agency would share data with the Los Angeles Police Department only when presented with a warrant; the spokesperson did not answer questions about whether information can be revealed in a lawsuit or what restrictions LA imposes on sharing between city agencies.

The debate comes as cities contend with an explosion of scooters: pending applications would put roughly 40,000 more on LA's roads, according to LADOT chief sustainability officer Marcel Porras.

"We were looking to respond quickly to a new mobility that kind of landed on our streets without permission," he said.

Porras said it's critical for the city to have a clear view of a rapidly growing means of transit so they can stay on top of the swiftly changing situation on the ground and see if scooters end up "in the LA River."

City officials also want that data so they can ensure companies are abiding by promises to make the technology available to lower-income residents "in areas of the city where these types of private sector investments may not normally go to first," Porras said.

"We're telling companies that if they want to expand their fleet, you have to put more of these units in disadvantaged communities," Porras said.

Porras said city officials rigorously examined privacy implications and ultimately decided to classify the location information as confidential, meaning it's not subject to public records requests. He noted that the information LA is collecting does not include personal identifiers.

"We are collecting vehicle information, not information on riders," he said.

Los Angeles is widely seen as ahead of the curve on data practices. A representative for **Mayor Eric Garcetti** stressed that record and said the city strives to keep residents informed "as new technologies emerge."

"Scooter location is tracked in a transparent way that protects user privacy, and the city has a strong track record of improving systems through data while being sensitive to privacy concerns," spokeswoman Anna Bahr said in a release.

Such assurances, however, have met with skepticism from people who have observed the perils of how government agencies manage data.

"The data's only as good as its weakest link," Gatto said. "I do believe this is one of those issues that is at the tipping point," he added, noting "this gut feeling we all have which is 'this is creepy — why is government tracking every single move and storing the data?'"

The debate is unfurling as the state wrestles over the scope of the California Consumer Privacy Act, which which emerged last year amid growing concerns about Big Tech's intrusiveness.

While Los Angeles says the law does not apply to data schema managed by government, the parallel developments demonstrate how data privacy is becoming a paramount consideration for policymakers — particularly the large and growing pool of information on where people are going in a world of increasingly sophisticated and connected transit.

"If you know where people work and pray and play you know a whole lot about them," Jerome said. "Our concern is [Los Angeles] is asking for a whole lot of data — more frequent and rigorous real-time data than companies collect and provide at the moment."

The issue isn't restricted to Los Angeles. In her capacity as an official in the National Association of City Transportation Officials, Reynolds has been sharing LA's data collection method as a possible model for other cities — an effort that transit experts said was gaining traction far beyond California.

She was among the NACTO officials last year touting a project called Shared Streets that lets private companies and public agencies share transit data. A NACTO representative declined to speak on the record, but the Shared Streets

website has a section devoted to assuring that "incredibly sensitive" data would be anonymized.

Last December, a collection of chief data officers of American cities signed an open letter heralding the launch of dockless vehicles and arguing that cities getting their raw data was "essential for internal urban planning." They argued for "block-level aggregation" that would safeguard privacy and against sharing individual routes.

Hanging over the scooter debate is an intensifying race by major tech and auto companies to deploy autonomous vehicles at scale. Driverless cars traveled more than two million miles on California's public roads last year, according to the DMV, a fourfold increase from the prior year.

Those vehicles generate enormous amounts of data. As California and the federal government work to shape the rules that should govern their use, transportation experts said LA's foray into managing transportation data could offer a glimpse of what's to come.

"Scooters are sort of a test case for how transit agencies are going to manage data as you deploy more technology," Jerome said.

In LA, a city that's long been emblematic of personal car culture, city officials are bracing for seismic changes brought on by the confluence of shared ridership, autonomous vehicle technology and big data. A LADOT plan repeatedly underscores how the city will need to assert its authority.

"Control is a fundamental aspect of today's transportation network and will become even more critical in the future," the plan says, which will mean launching a "technology platform that enables our Department to actively manage the transportation network in ways we previously have not."

The report describes the implications in strikingly evocative terms, predicting that the "technical, political, and structural aspects of this change are momentous, but so is the human emotional one."

The word "privacy" does not appear in the document.

LA Times
Jackie Goldberg heads into runoff for key L.A. school board seat with strong momentum
By: Howard Blume

Last year, the power of the local teachers union seemed to be on the wane while charter schools' prospects were rising. Los Angeles Board of Education members backed by charter supporters were in control, and they'd pushed through a new superintendent whose background had nothing to do with education.

On Tuesday, voters showed how quickly things can change.

Jackie Goldberg, the union-backed candidate, easily outpaced nine others on the ballot in a special election that could shift the balance on the school board — thanks in large part to public support cultivated during a six-day teachers' strike in January.

The 74-year-old veteran public official didn't quite get the majority needed to win the District 5 seat outright, but she claimed 48% of the vote, making her the strong favorite in a May 14 runoff against a second-place finisher who trailed her by 35 percentage points.

Goldberg, who served on the board for two terms until 1991, proclaimed herself part of a larger movement to bring more resources to education — and also to rein in charter schools.

"This is the beginning and not the end of putting together all those people who came together around the teachers' strike — not just here but in Oakland and the folks in Madera and the folks in Fresno that are all trying to make these things happen," Goldberg said. "People moved to California when I was young for our schools. And since then we have starved them, and we cannot continue starving them. This movement is about that."

It's not yet clear who Goldberg will face in the runoff, but it will either be Graciela Ortiz or Heather Repenning, who at last count were separated by 53 votes. Neither would be a clear-cut option for charter supporters. The candidate with the strongest pro-charter position, Allison Bajracharya, finished fifth.

Ortiz is a school counselor and a member of the Huntington Park City Council. Repenning is a former public works commissioner and longtime senior aide to L.A. **Mayor Eric Garcetti**. Their order of finish will be settled by mail-in and provisional ballots. The vote count can continue as late as March 19.

A timely candidate

Goldberg's success was partly due to her own brand: She served on the school board, on the L.A. City Council and in the state Legislature; she's well-known and well-regarded by many.

But her success also was built on teacher activism, including last year's strikes in other states and this year's walkouts in Los Angeles and Oakland. Union leaders in L.A. followed up their January strike by immediately launching a campaign that spent about $660,000 on Goldberg's behalf. She also raised about $200,000 for her own campaign — and she noted Tuesday night that she'd benefited from 1,300 small contributions and 800 volunteers.

Her activism goes way back to the UC Berkeley free speech movement of the mid-1960s — an era, she noted, in which students paid no tuition for their higher education. The state, she said, needs to find its way back to a deeper investment in its children.

Charter schools, too, would benefit from increased education funding, but charter advocates strongly — although quietly — opposed Goldberg. They worry about her calls for limiting the number of new charters and imposing more stringent regulations on them. (Both would require changes to state law.)

Goldberg aligns with those who say that privately operated charters — which compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that goes with them — are undermining public education. Charter backers counter that their schools have provided healthy competition and high-quality choices for families. About 1 in 5 local public school students now attend a charter — and wealthy pro-charter donors want further charter expansion.

Anti-charter themes were a regular refrain of striking teachers, and they seemed to strike a chord with people who may not previously have been familiar with the arguments.

A survey of L.A. Unified School District residents during and just after the strike found that about 3 in 4 said the focus should be on improving existing public schools rather than on alternatives such as charter schools, said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

Although the charter lobby remains powerful, it also suffered a setback at the state level last year, when it ran campaigns on behalf of candidates who lost the races for governor and the state superintendent of public instruction. On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom — who has signaled his openness to more regulation of charter school — signed legislation that would compel charters to follow laws on public records and public meetings.

Money matters

Tuesday's outcome also marked a new direction in another way. In several previous elections, pro-charter funders outspent everyone — to good effect. In 2017, candidates they backed claimed their first-ever L.A. school board majority. And a charter school founder, Ref Rodriguez, became president of the board.

Rodriguez represented District 5 — the region on Tuesday's ballot, which takes in neighborhoods north of downtown and then cuts a narrow path east of downtown to the cities of southeast L.A. County. He was supposed to serve through 2020.

Two months after Rodriguez became board president, however, prosecutors charged him with political money laundering. He stepped down as president but remained on the board for nearly a year, just long enough to cast a crucial vote for hiring businessman Austin Beutner as superintendent.

Goldberg said she would have voted to hire an educator rather than Beutner, but she also said she would try to work with the superintendent.

Rodriguez resigned in July after pleading guilty to one felony and three misdemeanors. His crimes, his delay in leaving office and his willingness to cast important swing votes during that time did not sit well with some parents and voters.

For this week's primary, charter backers were never able to coalesce around an opponent to Goldberg. Bajracharya, an executive at a charter organization, had substantial support from charter allies but not the overwhelming sums provided by mega-donors in recent elections.

Four candidates raised enough money to get their message out: Goldberg, Bajracharya, Ortiz and Repenning. And each also had donors who funded independent campaigns on their behalf. The teachers union's spending on Goldberg was a relative bargain compared to what it spent in recent races — often in a losing cause.

But the biggest spender in the primary was Local 99 of Services Employees International Union, which represents most

nonteaching district employees. It put nearly $1 million into a campaign to elect Repenning, who also had the endorsement of L.A Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Part of Local 99's money paid for a misleading campaign against Goldberg, describing her as a career politician who is "always looking out for #1" and who favored prisons over schools, slashed education spending and presided over a failing school system.

Even if their campaign helped force a runoff, Repenning finished so far back that Local 99 now must ponder how much it wants to continue fighting Goldberg, with whom the union previously has gotten along.

Many observers assumed that the pro-charter funders — organized under the group California Charter Schools Assn. Advocates — were simply holding their fire till the runoff. Goldberg's strong showing could affect that calculus.

A spokesman for CCSA Advocates declined to comment Wednesday.

Also covered by: LA Magazine, LA Daily News, Eastsider LA

LA Times
Readers React: L.A. will never get rid of its traffic problem, with or without congestion pricing

To the editor: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority wants to explore congestion pricing. This is a bad idea.

We cannot tax our way out of traffic any more than we can reduce the number of residents in and around Los Angeles, nor can most people change where they live or where they must travel to work.

Encouraging housing development along the various Metro routes is an option, but ultimately, we will never be able to overcome the challenges presented by the spread-out geography of greater Los Angeles.

If Los Angeles and other nearby cities really want to see traffic move more quickly, they should put significantly more effort and money into repairing our streets, which are in a shameful and dare I say dangerous state of disrepair.

Joe Grauman, Los Angeles
..

To the editor: A single word appearing in the article explains everything. The word is "choice," and it implies that working people will make an informed decision about whether or not to pay an additional tax to get to work.

The only real choice would be to pay the tax or pay one's rent. The effect of congestion pricing will be to remove working poor people from the highway so the wealthy can relax.

If the Red Line subway went from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and all other rail lines were complete, there might be a bit of fairness to this proposal. But in this form, it is merely insulting.

Jon Hartmann, Los Angeles
..

To the editor: Metro wants to study a proposal to tax motorists and ride-share operators to the tune of $580 million over a decade. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is quoted as saying, "This has to be about congestion relief and not to generate more revenue."

If that is true, then the Metro board members should read the L.A. Times' March 4 op-ed article, "We can't let China become the global leader in artificial intelligence." They would learn the city of Hangzhou used artificial intelligence to decrease road congestion.

It's a shame there isn't this kind of intelligence, artificial or otherwise, at Metro.

Tom Keiser, Pasadena

Mercury News
Sam Liccardo, London Breed and other big-city California mayors back Harris for president
By: Casey Tolan

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo backed Sen. Kamala Harris for president Thursday, lending his support to a fellow former Bay Area prosecutor as her campaign rolled out endorsements from a slate of California mayors.

"Senator Harris stands head and shoulders above the current field in the ability to articulate a vision that can move America forward and a willingness to say what needs to be said," Liccardo told the Bay Area News Group in an interview. "She's been a great champion for California and for our values."

In Harris' latest move to consolidate home state support, she also announced endorsements from Mayors London Breed of San Francisco, Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento, Robert Garcia of Long Beach and Aja Brown of Compton.

Harris' campaigns for office "paved the way for me and many women who have sought elected office in this state," Breed said in a statement. "She is acutely aware of the work that needs to be done on behalf of this nation and is prepared to lead and lift up hard-working men and women across this nation."

The former state attorney general and San Francisco district attorney, Harris has already won the backing of elected officials up and down the California ballot, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, five members of Congress and a host of other state officers and legislators. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf also endorsed Harris at her campaign kick-off rally earlier this year.

The Golden State is expected to play an unusually important role this year due to its early spot on the calendar and its major delegate haul. Californians will go to the polls on March 3, just after the four traditional early states and on the same day as a more than a half-dozen other states including Texas, North Carolina and Virginia.

As of Thursday, Harris has the support of all the Democratic leaders of California's nine biggest cities except for **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**, who publicly mused about a presidential bid before deciding not to run in January. He hasn't made a choice in the race.

The latest endorsements for Harris aren't exactly a surprise. Breed, who called the senator her "Bay Area sister," hosted a friendly San Francisco eventfor Harris' book tour earlier this year and attended her Oakland rally.

Liccardo, a former Santa Clara County deputy district attorney, said he was impressed by Harris' work with him and other mayors on under-the-radar issues like improving emergency warning systems. Harris will be the best candidate to balance progressive policies with appeals to moderate voters, he argued: "If this is just a contest to see who can race faster to the left, the Democratic Party will be headed for defeat in 2020."

Harris might not be the only Californian in the race for the White House: East Bay Rep. Eric Swalwell is also considering a run, and spent this past weekend meeting activists across northeast Iowa, his 17th trip to the state since the beginning of 2017.

San Fernando Valley Business Journal
VICA Hears Update on Hangar Events at Van Nuys Airport
By: Mark Madler

The Aviation Committee of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association received an update Wednesday on efforts to allow public events in aircraft hangars at Van Nuys Airport.

Max Reyes, an economic policy manager in **L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office, told the committee that the mayor's office has been working with the Building and Safety Department, Los Angeles World Airports, representatives from Councilwoman Nury Martinez's office and the Van Nuys Airport Association on the issue.

"We feel there has been progress," said Flora Margheritis, general manager of Van Nuys Airport.

Right now, a point of contention is about whether the large hangar doors will be considered emergency exits, Reyes said.

The issue of public events at the San Fernando Valley airfield came to the attention of airport tenants and VICA in December at a meeting of the airport association. Tenants were told of a city of Los Angeles administrative ruling that prohibits public events in hangars at Van Nuys Airport and warehouses across the city and that the Building and Safety Department would begin to enforce it.

A report is expected in the next week or two from the department and a proposed ordinance sponsored by Martinez is scheduled to be heard by the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee on March 19, Reyes said.

The proposed ordinance, introduced in December, instructs the L.A. Fire Department and Building and Safety Department to recommend a system to permit events at hangars.

"There is a pathway there and we are working on that," said Curt Castagna, who serves as president of the Van Nuys Airport Association

VICA has become involved with the issue as its executive committee in December passed a resolution in opposition to the event ban and calling for deferring implementation of the ban at Van Nuys and Los Angeles International airports for 180 days; creating standards for review and a permitting process; and making a clear distinction between hangars and warehouses.

Jewish Journal
Downtown L.A. Mural Triggers Accusations of Anti-Semitism
By: Ryan Torok and Aaron Bandler

A mural in downtown Los Angeles depicting the Grim Reaper wrapped inside an American flag emblazoned with Jewish stars, gripping a baby, cradling a missile and surrounded by snakes, has been deemed anti-Semitic by several civic leaders and organizations, including Los Angeles **Mayor Eric Garcetti's** office.

"This mural is a shameful act of anti-Semitism," Alex Comisar, a spokesman for Garcetti, said in a statement. "Imagery like this should have no place in our city."

The image, on the exterior wall of The Vortex, a performance and event space in an industrial downtown neighborhood, was first painted in 2011 by local artist Vyal Reyes as part of an art show titled, "LA vs. WAR." In 2018, Reyes said on his Instagram page that the work was inspired by a trip he took "to Palestine some years back."

However, the controversy didn't erupt until Feb. 25, when Zhenya Rozinskiy of boutique consulting firm Mirigos shared a photograph of the mural on his Facebook page and it went viral.

Among those condemning the mural was Progressive Zionists of the California Democratic Party. The group posted a picture of the mural on its Facebook page and tagged the Vortex, stating: "Hey The Vortex, Is this a real thing on your building? If yes, why? It's wildly anti-Semitic. If not, you should probably clear up the confusion. Signed, Some confused and concerned community members."

But in an email to the Journal, Reyes said he isn't anti-Semitic and that he intended the mural to be "critical of the U.S. and its increasing focus on war.

"That particular neighborhood that the mural was painted in was in worse shape at the time and homeless people lived all around there," Reyes said. "It seemed to me at the time that the U.S. was more into funding war than helping its homeless. Even at that time, the U.S. was funding massive amounts of money to Israel, as they still are. That's not anti-Semitic; that's just a fact."

Jeff Norman, a representative of the Vortex, also defended Reyes. "The Vortex stands for free expression," Norman said in an email to the Journal. "The artist whose mural includes the Star of David (created for the LA vs. WAR show to acknowledge 9/11 about 5-6 years ago) did not intend to express an anti-Semitic message. We believe his intent deserves considerable weight. We invite those who feel otherwise to paint another mural next to it. We are also open to hosting a public discussion about this controversy at The Vortex."

But on the night of Feb. 25 or the morning of Feb. 26, the words "No place for hate" were painted over the mural. While it's unclear who was responsible for defacing the mural, the artists' rights organization Artists 4 Israel sent a photograph of the defaced mural to their email list subscribers on Feb. 26.

When asked if his group was responsible for painting over the mural, Artists 4 Israel CEO Craig Dershowitz told the Journal that he did not have any comment, although he conceded that he was troubled by the mural's imagery.

As of press time, The Vortex had not made any effort to repair the mural or to notify the police about the defacement, Norman said.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League has called for the mural's removal.

"For a venue that purports to welcome the community, The Vortex should join us in condemning hateful imagery that invokes anti-Semitic canards conflating Jews with death, snakes, bombs and killing babies," the organization said in a statement.

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Cate Hurley | **Communications**
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
213-978-0741 (Office)

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Thu, Mar 7, 2019 at 7:39 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]
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Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]> Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 5:39 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[redacted]>, Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]>, Cecilia Cabello home <[redacted]>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penera@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Kenneth Lee <kenneth.lee.intern@lacity.org>, Lynette Amerian <[redacted]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Ramon Covarrubias <ramon.covarrubias@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[redacted]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Vance <[redacted]>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Mayor Garcetti on the future of Los Angeles, his faith and Trump
http://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/215897/mayor-garcetti-future-los-angeles-faith-trump/
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Weighs In On Immigration Debate
http://www.npr.org/2017/03/01/517988135/los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-weighs-in-on-immigration-debate
Coalition of 1800 Southern California Jews criticizing Trump travel and refuge ban includes top LA politicians
http://www.whittierdailynews.com/government-and-politics/20170301/coalition-of-1800-southern-california-jews-criticizing-trump-travel-and-refugee-ban-includes-top-la-politicians
LA area Jewish leaders form coalition in response to Trump's executive actions of immigration and refugees
http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-jewish-leaders-pledge-20170228-story.html
Poll on LA mayoral race shows Garcetti with wide lead
http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/03/01/69485/poll-on-la-mayoral-race-shows-garcetti-with-wide-l/
Eric Garcetti Skipping Tonight's Mayoral Debate
http://www.kabc.com/2017/03/01/eric-garcetti-skipping-tonights-mayoral-debate/
Mitchell Schwartz mounts attack on Garcetti: Can it get him elected mayor of Los Angeles?
http://jewishjournal.com/news/los_angeles/215906/mitchell-schwartz-mounts-attack-garcetti-can-get-elected-mayor-los-angeles/
City Election: Garcetti for mayor
http://dailybruin.com/2017/03/01/city-election-eric-garcetti-for-mayor/
The Argonaut's March 7 Primary Election Endorsements
http://argonautnews.com/the-argonauts-march-7-primary-election-endorsements/
Election? What election? Apathy abounds as LA vote nears
http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-ln-los-angeles-voter-apathy-20170301-story.html
Judge grants restraining order against Black Lives Matter protester accused of threatening LA Police commissioner
http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-police-commission-restraining-order-20170301-story.html
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Jewish Journal
Mayor Garcetti on the future of Los Angeles, his faith and Trump
No one can escape the challenges of Los Angeles — not even the mayor.
As voters prepare to take a stand on ballot initiatives that aim to impact homelessness, development and, yes, L.A.'s infamous traffic, no one can say Mayor Eric Garcetti can't relate. Just last week, he found himself ensnarled in gridlock, 20 minutes late for an interview at the Journal's Koreatown office.
In the midst of a re-election campaign, Garcetti — the city's first elected Jewish mayor — said he's looking at the long-term. So while he's confident that Los Angeles is moving in the right direction, he promised no quick fixes.
"I never approached my first term as, you know, I have four years to change this city," he said in a freewheeling interview that covered topics as varied as city services to the city's response to President Donald Trump's executive orders to his own spiritual journey. "I think from the beginning, I've approached this job as an Angeleno, a lifelong Angeleno. And I kind of looked at the next decade to 50 years as the time horizon I wanted to influence. So I think my second term is very much similar to the first term, about being able to reach for great opportunities and address pressing challenges."
Garcetti, who faces seven challengers in this election, talked about his role in raising the minimum wage, and putting the heft of City Hall behind last November's successful ballot initiatives to fund transportation and homeless efforts to the tune of billions of dollars. Now he is campaigning for Los Angeles County Measure H on the March 7 ballot, which would raise the sales tax by 0.25 percent to provide drug and mental illness rehabilitation and prevention programs for the homeless. He's also come out against Measure S, the initiative that aims to reform land use, saying it would

negatively impact affordable housing in the city.
The mayor — son of a Jewish mother and a father of Mexican and Italian heritage, former District Attorney Gil Garcetti — had plenty to say about his increased spirituality, as well, and how it's informed his response to recent events on a national level. (Garcetti has pledged to fight Trump's effort to deport undocumented immigrants, who number about 11 million nationwide, with 850,000 of them in Los Angeles County.)
In a roundtable discussion, arranged by Journal columnist Bill Boyarsky, Garcetti discussed all this and more. An edited version of that conversation follows; for the full transcript, go to this story at jewishjournal.com.
JEWISH JOURNAL: Six years from now, what's traffic going to be like in L.A. if you're the mayor?
ERIC GARCETTI: We'll be on the way to relieving traffic, no doubt. I don't think it will be much better in six years. … It's impossible to undo, you know, 40 to 50 years of urban planning in that short period of time. But I think the 10- to 20-year horizon is actually incredibly hopeful. We will build, you know, Measure M, $120 billion, about half of that to new capital [projects]. To boil that down, that's 15 new lines or extensions of existing lines — the biggest, I think, physical change to this county since water came here. I don't think it's overstating.
JJ: What is homelessness going to be like at the end of the next term?
EG: I think we'll be more than halfway home. … The biggest thing, I think, to end street homelessness is we need an army of social workers out there. I go out with these outreach teams all the time. I don't know if a mayor's done that before, but I go out as regularly as I can. I know people by their first names on the street now. I know their stories. And we had 15 people, trying to talk to 28,000 homeless Angelenos in the city of L.A. when I started. Just do the math. I've gotten that up to 80 through some city funds that I kind of have scraped along, but the reason I'm so passionate about Measure H is we probably need 500 or 600 — then we could really make an impact.
JJ: Talk about the deportations advocated by Trump. What are you prepared to do, and are you prepared to pay the price that you and the city might have to pay?
EG: Chief Justice [John] Roberts said [in a previous case that] the federal government cannot force you to do one thing in order to get money for another thing. … It's very clear you can't take port money because my cops won't be turned into immigration officers. I'm not kidding myself that they won't potentially try to take some dollars from us: Bring that fight on. I mean, what are you going to do? Take away radiological and biological weapons detectors at the port? You're going to take away the vouchers that go to homeless vets that are now being housed and take away their rents? I think this is a moment when [you should] stand up for your values, and we're prepared to do that politically, legally and economically.JJ: What obligations do you feel to Los Angeles' very large Jewish community?
EG: I feel a deep one. I feel my values have been informed by both sides of my family. When I look at something like my responsibilities to the Jewish community, [they] are both direct in what I can do to serve them, but also in what we can do to activate each other. [Like] when a moment comes like people turned away from our airport because of their religion or the country of their origin. I re-read the [S.S.] St. Louis history, which, the one aspect I didn't realize was, St. Louis wasn't just turned away [in 1939] because it was refugees and Jews. They actually said they were worried there was a national security threat of Nazi spies on there, which is like so much a mirror of what the justification is right now for Syria and Somalia and other places.
JJ: Have you talked to law enforcement about the threats against Jewish facilities?
EG: Yes, I've talked to LAPD about it. Absolutely.
JJ: Is it a major concern of yours?
EG: It's a concern. I've watched too many of us say the sky is falling before it actually falls, with this new administration and the change. I think we have to be really precise so that we don't let anything go under-commented on but we don't stoke the fears, as well. We've seen a doubling of hate incidents since the elections.
JJ: In Los Angeles? In the country?
EG: In Los Angeles. And that's not just anti-Semitic.
JJ: According to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)?
EG: Yeah. LAPD statistics. So that's what's been reported. I get [reports] once a month, and I've asked them to add hate incidents since the election so I can track it more carefully.
JJ: Last question: What have you learned from your text studies with Rabbi Sharon Brous of IKAR that's made you become a better mayor of Los Angeles?
EG: Well, you know, it's funny, like most good talmudic studies, you just sit around and gossip a lot. … I've learned a lot. It's funny, I love being, for instance, in a Black church in South L.A. and bringing up the lessons she taught me about, you know, for instance that it was a sin in the olden days to pray in a room that was windowless, because you had to reflect the divinity. … God isn't about going inward; it's about reflecting outward that divinity. And so I use that as a metaphor for what our responsibilities are — for us to not just close into our communities and close into our issues but actually reflect that divinity off of us. …
It's not just with Sharon but with other folks as I've kind of come to more faith and spent a lot more time going to services. I actually love the High Holidays. I get to hear some really brilliant thinking that, you know, rabbis have tried to encapsulate an entire year. And there's, I would say, a real split right now between those who see this moment as a moment to stand up and be urgent and to possibly offend some folks that are in their congregations, and others who are playing it safer and saying look, we have diverse views, I can't get involved in that, but let me just talk about internal things. And, you know, I personally err toward the former. Whether you're a religious or a political leader, we're called on in these moments to stand up.

NPR

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Weighs In On Immigration Debate

By City News Service

Southland Jewish leaders have formed a coalition in response to President Donald Trump's executive actions on immigration and refugees.

More than 1,800 Jews — among them L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Attorney Mike Feuer, City Controller Ron Galperin and former County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky — signed a statement calling for the creation of Jews United for Justice and Democracy. The coalition gathered the signatures last weekend.

The group said in a statement that it "is deeply concerned about rising threats to religious tolerance, equal rights, a free and fair press, human dignity, and long-held norms of decency and civil society." It added: "We will speak out and take action when our shared Jewish values require us to counter those threats."

The statement said the new coalition would work with fellow Americans in pursuit of three principles: "America is a nation of laws," "America is a nation of immigrants," and "America is a nation that aspires to equality, respect and justice for all people."

Whittier Daily News

Coalition of 1800 Southern California Jews criticizing Trump travel and refuge ban includes top LA politicians

http://www.whittierdailynews.com/government-and-politics/20170301/coalition-of-1800-southern-california-jews-criticizing-trump-travel-and-refugee-ban-includes-top-la-politicians

LA Times

LA area Jewish leaders form coalition in response to Trump's executive actions of immigration and refugees

By Ben Poston

Los Angeles-area Jewish leaders have started a coalition in response to President Trump's executive actions on immigration and refugees.

More than 1,800 Jewish people — including L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Atty. Mike Feuer and City Controller Ron Galperin — signed a statement calling for the creation of Jews United for Justice and Democracy.

The group "is deeply concerned about rising threats to religious tolerance, equal rights, a free and fair press, human dignity, and long-held norms of decency and civil society," according to the statement. "We will speak out and take action when our shared Jewish values require us to counter those threats."

The coalition gathered the signatures last weekend from more than 110 clergy members, L.A. County's entire state legislative Jewish delegation, seven current and former members of Congress, and 60 current and former elected and appointed officials.

We know what the costs are of remaining silent.— Zev Yaroslavsky, organizing committee member for Jews United for Justice and Democracy

The group's focus is on three guiding principles: America is a nation of laws, of immigrants and "aspires to equality, respect and justice for all people."

Zev Yaroslavsky, a former L.A. County supervisor and one of the six members of the group's organizing committee, said he was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for the coalition. He said the group will stand by refugees fleeing oppression as well as immigrants in the United States who "tonight as they go to sleep fear a knock on the door."

"This is something the Jewish community wants to speak out on," Yaroslavsky said. "It speaks to a thirst in our community to stand up and not be silent. We know what the costs are of remaining silent."

While the effort to form the coalition was undertaken before the recent desecration of Jewish cemeteries and bomb threats to Jewish centers in L.A. and other cities, those issues are also concerning, he said.

"This is part of the atmosphere that is plaguing our nation right now," Yaroslavsky said.

KPCC

Poll on LA mayoral race shows Garcetti with wide lead

In what appears to be the first publicly released poll on the Los Angeles mayor's race, incumbent Eric Garcetti holds a commanding lead over his opponents, and may be positioned for an outright win in the Tuesday primary.

A new poll conducted by Loyola Marymount University's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles finds that Garcetti is the only mayoral candidate with support in the double digits.

The poll shows that of the 950 self-identified registered voters surveyed, about 50 percent said they'd vote for the mayor.

"Although we recognize the likely low-voter turnout in this election, these results show Garcetti's considerable influence and reputation in L.A., and indicate that he is in a strong position to win the upcoming election," said Brianne Gilbert, the center's associate director, in a written release.

Any candidate that wins 50 percent of ballots cast plus one vote can capture the office without facing a runoff in the general election on May 16.

In comparison to Garcetti's support, only about 8 percent of those surveyed said they'd vote for Mitchell Schwartz, the mayor's best-known challenger. Four percent said they would vote for "other."
A significant number of those surveyed, about 39 percent, said they didn't know who they'd vote for among the 11 candidates.
Garcetti had said he would agree to a debate if any of his 10 challengers drew at least 15 percent of the support in polls. Schwartz has been campaigning hard to push Garcetti into a general election runoff. He's repeatedly said he'd like to debate Garcetti.
Both candidates appeared on KPCC's AirTalk this week for one-on-one interviews.
LMU surveyed the 950 registered voters in Los Angeles in January and the early February. A larger sample size of 2,400 Los Angeles County residents were asked questions about their quality of life, economic concerns and other issues.
The margin of error of the poll was plus or minus 3 percent for the entire sample.
KPCC Board of Trustee Member Fernando Guerra worked on the poll along with Gilbert.

KABC

Eric Garcetti Skipping Tonight's Mayoral Debate

By James Rojas
L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti is being criticized for avoiding a mayoral debate tonight where ten candidates are expected to attend.
Garcetti's campaign spokesman says the mayor is skipping the debate because none of the candidates he's running against have a large base of support.
"I mean, if that's not the biggest bunch of crap ever. Come on."
Mayoral Candidate Mitchell Schwartz is accusing the mayor of only pursuing his own agenda.
"It's quite clear that he doesn't want to be here and he's going to run for governor and senator. If he wins again, he's going to turn around, run for governor and senator. He doesn't care about the people of Los Angeles."
The debate is being held at the Sona Sotomayor Learning Academies and begins at 7. Doors open at 6.

Jewish Journal

Mitchell Schwartz mounts attack on Garcetti: Can it get him elected mayor of Los Angeles?

By Eitan Arom
Mitchell Schwartz doesn't think so highly of his incumbent opponent in the upcoming March 7 city election, but on one score, he admits that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has him beat.
"He's much better looking than me," Schwartz during a recent interview at a Silver Lake café.
Schwartz is tall and broad, with a nose that has been broken, the combined effect of which makes him look like a former boxer. He jokes that he broke his nose "fighting for the people." (In fact, it was a series of sports injuries.) But if he is to defeat an electoral heavyweight like Garcetti, Schwartz will have to land some major political punches. By most accounts, he's a serious underdog.
A former State Department official under President Bill Clinton, Schwartz has the best name recognition and fundraising operation among a group of seven otherwise obscure challengers, having raised nearly $450,000. The next best-funded candidate is Paul E. Amori, a homelessness activist who often appears in a red sequined suit and bow tie, who has raised $5,631. Meanwhile, Garcetti has collected more than $3.5 million for his campaign.
Badly outspent, Schwartz, who is Jewish, is mounting an unrelenting critique of the incumbent. Schwartz points out that in Los Angeles, housing prices are up. In 2016, the violent crime rate rose 10 percent, the third consecutive year-over-year increase. The number of people living on the street has been on the rise since 2009, including an 11 percent increase from 2015 to 2016 alone, and now stands above 28,000. The city faces a staggering pension liability of $8.2 billion and has a Department of Water and Power (DWP) many say is in dire need of reform. Amid all this, Schwartz alleges, Garcetti has been a nonentity, demonstrating "a complete lack of leadership."
What's more, Schwartz claims to know why.
"Garcetti, unfortunately, has what I call the politician's disease," Schwartz told the Journal. "He's so desirous of going to higher office that instead of expending political capital on dealing with issues, he just tries to accumulate it and coast through and not deal with these tough situations."
It's the reason Garcetti hasn't reformed the DWP or decentralized the city's byzantine school district, and why he hasn't pressured Veterans Affairs to house homeless veterans in its West L.A. campus, Schwartz said. He called Measure HHH, a $1.2 billion countywide homeless housing bond shepherded by the mayor and approved in November's election, "obviously an election gimmick" to help Garcetti's chances, though Schwartz said he voted for it anyway in the hope that it would help the homeless problem.
The mayor disputes the fundamental premise of Schwartz's criticism.
"Anybody's analysis that you can store up political capital and spend it later is a little bit naïve," Garcetti said. "It's not like you can keep it in a bank like money. It can change in an instant. So you better be spending it every day like I do, to do big and bold things."
The mayor argues that just because he's not picking fights doesn't mean he's standing still. "People mistake a bloody nose for accomplishments," he said.
He cited his stewardship of a $120 billion transportation measure and a $1.2 billion homelessness bond passed on the

November ballot as battles he has fought and won, along with his successful push for a $15 minimum wage.
On the veterans homelessness charge, Garcetti political strategist Bill Carrick said the mayor has "worked very hard at it. ... We haven't eradicated it but that's the direction we're headed." The mayor alleges to have housed 8,000 homeless veterans and says he would solved the issue entirely if more veterans weren't finding themselves on the streets of L.A. daily.
Schwartz's critique extends not just to Garcetti's actions but also the political culture he says the mayor inspired during his tenure as city council president and subsequently as mayor. He described the city's attitude toward building and development as haphazard, painting a picture of city councilmen trading votes over code deviations. (Carrick called this accusation "just silly.")
On Measure S, a package of slow-growth reforms on the March city ballot, Schwartz has declined to take a position, saying he's wary of the measure's mechanisms but understands the sentiment of communities feeling disenfranchised by the development process. The mayor, on the other hand, firmly opposes the measure.
With few vocal detractors, Garcetti could coast to an easy victory. That outcome would be unsurprising given the mayor's celebrity persona and large network of connections — he recently received no less an endorsement than from former President Barack Obama (a somewhat awkward situation, given that Schwartz chaired Obama's California campaign in 2008).
But it would be a mistake to treat the election as a foregone conclusion, according to Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at USC.
"Under most normal circumstances, it would be almost impossible for an insurgent like Mitchell Schwartz to mount a credible challenge against a well-liked incumbent mayor," he said. "But these are not normal times."
The past 18 months have sent political predictions haywire, Schnur said, foiled by widespread disgruntlement among voters. Schnur compared the mayoral race to the recent Democratic presidential primary, with Garcetti cast as Hillary Clinton and Schwartz as her firebrand challenger, Bernie Sanders.
"He wants to be the insurgent," Schnur said of Schwartz. "He wants to be the voice of all the frustrated, angry progressives who don't feel like they're being heard by traditional politicians. The challenge he faces is twofold: Garcetti is not nearly as inviting a target as Clinton and Schwartz doesn't have nearly the megaphone that Sanders had."
In Los Angeles, disaffection among voters often is focused on the cost of housing. Measure S, for instance, finds its political base in activists who see luxury development threatening the character of L.A. neighborhoods. The city council's willy-nilly zoning policy is "what spawned Measure S," Schwartz said.
It may be unsurprising that Schwartz has put a critique of Garcetti front and center of his campaign.
"[As a challenger], you have to convince people that the first-term incumbent hasn't done an especially good job to warrant a second term," former L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky told the Journal. But, he added, "I don't think he can make that case against Eric Garcetti."
If there is a winning case to be made against Garcetti, Schwartz seems determined to find it. For instance, he's challenged Garcetti to pledge he would serve out the entirety of an unusually long 5 1/2-year term afforded by a change in election laws; Garcetti has yet to respond to that challenge.
"He's not going to make some pledge because Mitchell Schwartz thinks somehow he's going to get some traction from it," Carrick said. "The job he's running for is mayor. That's the job he's trying to get re-elected to."
Few observers doubt that Garcetti eventually will seek higher office.
"Let's face it — is there anyone who believes that after this term that he will not attempt to see if there is any opportunity for higher office?" said Frank Zerunyan, a USC professor of governance and longtime friend of Garcetti. "And to be honest, he deserves it."
Schwartz has argued that Garcetti's political ambitions hamper his effectiveness as mayor. "This is a steppingstone for him," Schwartz said. "It's not OK."
As befits an unusual political climate, Schwartz is an unusual candidate to lead L.A.
"I never expected to [run]," he said. "Never, never, never."
At 56, Schwartz has never held elected office. Instead, his political experience is mainly as a campaign operative.
In 1992, he managed Clinton's presidential primary campaign in New Hampshire and subsequently became communications director for the Clinton State Department. Since then, he's held leadership roles in public relations and environmental firms, and helped campaign for political candidates, including former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Sen. Diane Feinstein.
Unlike Garcetti, whose religious orientation often flies under the radar despite his status as the city's first elected Jewish mayor, Schwartz — from his name to his appearance — is unambiguously Jewish.
Growing up in an Orthodox family in Queens, N.Y., he attended the well-regarded Yeshiva of Flatbush. After moving to Los Angeles in 1996, he became involved in Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles and eventually became vice president of Temple Israel of Hollywood, though he stepped down to focus on his mayoral run. He and his wife sent their three children to the temple's elementary school.
Schwartz recognizes that he's up against tough odds. Nonetheless, he sees an avenue, if a narrow one, to City Hall.
"We do this polling," Schwartz said. "He's got decent numbers. He's got pretty good numbers. But when you push people — like, 'Well, what has he done?' — they cannot answer."
A recent statement from Schwartz campaign manager Josh Kilroy alleged, based on random-sampling polls, that Schwartz's name recognition is up. The campaign estimates the mayor is polling at around 50 percent. Meanwhile, a poll conducted by an Orange County opinion research firm from Feb. 16-19 put Garcetti's approval at 65 percent. He

needs only 51 percent of the votes to avoid a runoff.
"All I can do is just keep working night and day and get out there," Schwartz said.
As the interview wound down, Schwartz turned to two young people hunched over laptops at the next table.
"Excuse me, are you guys from L.A.?" he asked. "I'm running for mayor of L.A."

Daily Bruin

City Election: Garcetti for mayor

While the Los Angeles mayoral candidate field is crowded, it's clear Eric Garcetti is the king of the hill. And Los Angeles voters would be remiss not to give him a second term.
This board endorses Garcetti for mayor because of his innovative outlook, his accomplishments as the current mayor of LA and – most importantly – his experience.
Back in 2013, Garcetti assured voters, among many things, that he would fix potholes on the streets, help improve LA's rampant traffic congestion, work towards more affordable housing and restructure the LA Department of Water and Power. And over the past four years, he has accomplished – or at least started to address – these very issues.
For example, Garcetti helped launch a data collection and mapping system that allows citizens to request a multitude of city services, such as graffiti removal, pothole repair and bulky-item pickup. He helped author and pass Measure M in November, which provides funding for LA to revitalize and revolutionize its transportation system to meet the city's growing transit needs. And he has pledged to build 100,000 new affordable housing units by 2021 and put a referendum on November's ballot to overhaul the LADWP to allow for more community oversight.
There is undoubtedly no better choice for mayor than Garcetti. None of his opponents come close to competing with his qualifications and track record.
However, this accolade is not without reservations about his governing style. Throughout his tenure, Garcetti has had trouble consistently making difficult political decisions. Be it attempting to overhaul the LADWP or protecting his vision of LA's housing, Garcetti has tended to ride the coattails of city propositions instead of taking the initiative himself as mayor to lead major citywide efforts. The measures have been doing the heavy lifting over the past four years – not the mayor's office itself.
Certainly, the city has been blessed with an economic boom and improved infrastructure these past four years, and Garcetti can be thanked for some of that. But the mayor needs to be willing to take more creative risks to solve LA's long-lasting problems, like crime and homelessness.
LA deserves a mayor with qualifications and ideas. Garcetti is the clear winner for the first criterion and the only candidate showing the aptitude for the second.

Argonaut

The Argonaut's March 7 Primary Election Endorsements

L.A. County Measure H
This quarter-cent sales tax increase will generate $350 million per year to fund the case management services necessary to get homeless people into the housing that last fall's $1.2-billion affordable housing bond is expected to create. One doesn't work without the other. Vote Yes on Measure H.
L.A. City Measures M & N
Measure M empowers the city to tax and regulate recreational marijuana; Measure N would enact different rules written by Big Weed. Vote Yes on Measure M and No on Measure N.
L.A. City Measure S
If Los Angeles could take a page from the Trump playbook and build a wall to keep Midwestern cultural refugees from moving here, Measure S would be a great idea. But in the real world, curtailing new construction in the middle of a crisis-level housing shortage is bad policy. Rents are already so high that some natives can't afford to stay here, and reducing supply in the face of increased demand will make rents go up. Measure S would address several bad city policies and stop bad projects that are out-of-scale with their surroundings, but it would also halt the necessary conversion of surplus light-industrial or commercial zones into high-density residential areas.
What L.A. needs most is more affordable housing, but even new luxury housing can have a positive impact. All those Westside tech workers have to live somewhere, and it's not going to be Cleveland. While pricey apartments in Playa Vista may seem like they're making everything more expensive, they're actually taking market pressure off existing nearby neighborhoods. Preventing zoning changes for large projects would likely redirect developer dollars into exploiting existing zoning rules that already allow for converting single-family homes into small apartment buildings, doubling down on urban sprawl. Vote No on Measure S.
Mayor of Los Angeles
Mayor Eric Garcetti has had a pretty good run so far, and in this 11-way race he's the only candidate with the vision and experience to do even better by the residents of a city he so clearly loves. Vote for Eric Garcetti.
Los Angeles City Council
Venice neighborhood activists Mark Ryavec and Robin Rudisill may be big-time underdogs against council incumbent Mike Bonin, but don't dismiss the concerns of their supporters. Ryavec embodies the anger and frustration of homeowners dealing with quality of life issues created by a pattern of negligence by L.A. City Hall that predates its current occupants. Rudisill embodies righteous indignation about new development — not so much the big projects addressed by Measure S, but the widespread loss of community character one small parcel at a time.

Only Bonin, however, has demonstrated the combination of temperament, empathy and political knowhow required to balance competing interests while crafting broad-minded solutions to a wide array of issues, from combating homelessness in Venice to reversing LAX expansion into Westchester. Vote for Mike Bonin.

LAUSD Board of Education

This is the toughest call on Tuesday's ballot, and fortunately that's because it forces us to choose among three really solid candidates: Allison Holdorff Polhill, Nick Melvoin and current LAUSD Board President Steve Zimmer.

Zimmer is a responsive public servant who makes a compelling case for a third term. He helped navigate LAUSD out of the darkest days of state budget cuts, and he's confronted brutal competition for limited resources among Westsiders without losing sight of what's best for kids. We applaud his service.

But Melvoin's candidacy is also part of LAUSD's legacy during Zimmer's tenure. The Harvard and Loyola Marymount University graduate was a middle school teacher in Watts when the recession hit and, like so many other bright young teachers, lost his job to seniority-based teacher layoffs. Now he works as an education consultant and adjunct faculty member at LMU.

Massive outside political spending (much of it benefitting Melvoin) has sought to recast this election as a fight between charter groups and the teacher's union over the political balance of the LAUSD board. But Melvoin is no puppet. He promises to pursue a middle path of seeking compromise between charters and the union in order to move past the status quo of rigid ideological loyalties that have dominated board politics for the worse. "If unions don't get on board with some reform," Melvoin told us, "the [political] right is going to come with a battle axe after us" — which is exactly how charter advocates have been able to gain as much traction as they already have.

We wish both Zimmer and Melvoin could represent Westside voters on the LAUSD Board, and we hope both advance to a runoff in May so we'll have more time to compare and contrast them. But there's only one way that can happen. Vote for Nick Melvoin.

LA Times

Election? What election? Apathy abounds as LA vote nears

By Michael Finnegan

Tabitha Benoy of Woodland Hills plans to skip Tuesday's election for mayor of Los Angeles.

"It's never even occurred to me to vote for the mayor," said Benoy, a 37-year-old social worker who tends to vote for president and not much else. "It seems like there's so many elections. It's too much to deal with."

Conditions are ripe for dismal voter turnout next week. Mayor Eric Garcetti faces only token opposition in his run for a second term. Nothing else on the ballot — including measures on marijuana and homelessness — has stirred much voter passion. And the rancor of the 2016 presidential race has left many voters exhausted.

In that climate, Los Angeles stands a good chance of hitting a record low for turnout in a mayoral election, upholding its reputation as a bastion of voter apathy.

"I don't really even know the mayor's name, to be honest with you," said 25-year-old Jackie Riddle of Brentwood, an independent-living instructor for adults with disabilities.

In Riddle's social-media circles, President Trump's daily dramas dominate conversation these days. "There's constantly people posting about that, but nothing local," she said on a coffee break with a client in Westwood.

Recent interviews with nearly two dozen voters across Los Angeles made clear their overwhelming disengagement from local affairs. Many of them knew little or nothing about Garcetti.

"We're lazy," said Victoria Gonzalez, 53, who was walking her dog Trixie near her home in San Pedro. "That's what it comes down to — just being lazy and thinking one vote isn't going to help."

Gonzalez was unaware that a city election was coming up. The media she consumes, she said, is too focused on the rich and famous, and not enough on local news.

The waning of L.A. politics coverage as news outlets have shrunk in recent years has indeed left many residents uninformed about what's at stake on the ballot.

"I think it's really hard for people to answer how my life will be different if I vote for 'Candidate A' or 'Candidate B,'" said Jessica Levinson, a Loyola Law School professor who specializes in campaigns and elections.

L.A.'s confusing patchwork of place names adds to the problem, leaving many voters unsure whether they reside within the city's boundaries.

Kojo Annor, 40, who has lived in the area for more than 20 years, wanted to vote for Garcetti next week. But Annor, a biotech engineer and immigrant from Ghana, didn't realize that his move last year from Woodland Hills to Castaic made him ineligible to vote in the city election.

"Really?" he asked with a quizzical smile when told that he no longer lives in Los Angeles.

Sean Clegg, a Bay Area consultant who has worked on mayoral campaigns in both L.A. and San Francisco, said Los Angeles has one of the nation's most apolitical urban cultures. "It's a place so sprawling that a sense of community, and of your ability to have an impact on that community, feels much more like a drop in the ocean," he said.

Mayoral elections in San Francisco often draw about double the voter turnout that they do in Los Angeles.

Kiyomi Kowalski of West Hills, with her daughter Kennedy, 10, and son Moses, 2. Kowalski, who attended a recent President Trump resistance meeting in Silver Lake, says: "The reason we have Trump is we are not as engaged as we should be, and it all starts locally." (Al Seib / Los Angeles Times)

The reason we have Trump is we're not as engaged as we should be, and it all starts locally.— Kiyomi Kowalski

Racial strife has at times driven high turnout in L.A. It peaked at 76% in 1969, when Tom Bradley was running to

become the city's first black mayor. It spiked again when Richard Riordan was elected mayor in 1993, reaching 45% in the aftermath of riots sparked by the acquittal of white police officers in the beating of Rodney King, an African American.
But turnout dropped to a new low of 18% in 2009, when Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa won reelection after a somnolent race against largely unknown challengers.
Four years ago, even after a hard-fought and well-publicized race between Garcetti and several well-known rivals, just 21% of registered voters cast ballots in the primary for mayor.
In a heavily Democratic city where Trump has inspired big protests, one of the unknowns on Tuesday is whether voters' newfound engagement in national politics might manifest itself in a boost in turnout, defying strategists' expectations.
"The reason we have Trump is we're not as engaged as we should be, and it all starts locally," said Kiyomi Kowalski of West Hills as she strapped her toddler into a car seat after shopping in Woodland Hills. Kowalski, 38, attended a recent Trump resistance meeting in Silver Lake. She planned to vote for Garcetti on Tuesday.
In 2014, city voters approved a switch in the election calendar in an attempt to produce higher turnout. Starting in 2020, L.A. elections will occur at the same time as state and federal contests in even-numbered years, with a June primary and November general election. If Garcetti wins reelection, his term will last 5 ½ years, with a successor chosen in 2022.
Whether the shift in election timing will change the habits of voters like dentist Lin Lagunda of Panorama City is unclear. She sometimes votes for president, but never for mayor.
"I'm bad — I should," she said on a trip to the bank after work. She said she wished the demands of everyday life left more time for things like voting. "All I know is I'm working, and I pay my bills, and I take care of my kids."

LA Times

Judge grants restraining order against Black Lives Matter protester accused of threatening LA Police commissioner

By Cindy Chang
A judge Wednesday granted a restraining order against a Black Lives Matter activist who is accused of threatening the president of the Los Angeles Police Commission and appearing at his home and law office.
The city had sought the order against Trevor Ferguson, who, according to court declarations, had targeted commission President Matt Johnson at public meetings and referenced Johnson's children.
Ferguson has denied the charges.
But Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson granted the restraining order, saying that "any parent would be concerned" by Ferguson's mentioning Johnson's son at a Police Commission meeting and then visiting Johnson's home.
After more than an hour of testimony from Johnson, Ferguson and others, Goodson concluded that Ferguson's intent was not to protest but to "incite fear." The restraining order requires Ferguson to stay away from Johnson and his family. Ferguson can continue to speak at Police Commission meetings but must keep a five-yard distance from Johnson.
A temporary order with the same restrictions has been in effect since Dec. 20.
Following the hearing, Johnson said that he supports the 1st Amendment, but that Ferguson had gone too far.
"The right to protest has led to tremendous gains for people who look like myself and Mr. Ferguson," Johnson said.
Both Johnson and Ferguson are black. "It's something I deeply respect. But there is a line, and for me, that line is when you threaten the safety of my family. Like any father, I'm not going to apologize for taking steps to protect the safety of my family."
Ferguson's attorney, Nana Gyamfi, said Johnson's fear of Ferguson was based on race.
"It's ridiculous that he used a method and procedure people use to protect themselves from actual violence ... to protect himself from embarrassment," she said.
Gyamfi said that the restraining order's impact goes beyond Ferguson and could erode 1st Amendment rights for other protesters.
"By the time you look up, your rights have been gutted," she said. Ferguson likely will appeal the decision, she added.
After the hearing, Ferguson would say only, "Great is Allah," in response to questions.
Ferguson is part of a group that often disrupts the Police Commission's weekly meetings by chanting and speaking out of turn. Members contend their aim is to express outrage at Los Angeles Police Department shootings of black and Latino people.
Johnson is one of two African American police commissioners. At meetings, Ferguson and others have called Johnson a "houseboy" — a derogatory term for a black person who is in league with whites — amid demands that LAPD Chief Charlie Beck resign and the entire department be disbanded.
In a court declaration, Johnson alleged that Ferguson made a "gratuitous reference to his children" at a November Police Commission meeting and stated at another meeting that Johnson should be scared of him.
At various meetings, Ferguson has mouthed threats to Johnson, including that he would beat up Johnson and kill him, according to the declaration. Because the threats were not spoken aloud, there is no recording of them, the declaration said.
In an interview with The Times in December, Ferguson, 35, defended his actions as lawful protesting, saying he has

never crossed the line from insults to threats. He has never mouthed anything at Johnson, he said.
"To say I threatened him with physical harm is a gross overstatement and out of proportion," said Ferguson, a rap artist and music producer who is also known as Trevor Gerard.
The five police commissioners, who volunteer their time, provide civilian oversight of the LAPD, setting policies, recommending reforms and reviewing incidents when officers use force against civilians — including fatal shootings.
Johnson is the managing partner of entertainment law firm Ziffren Brittenham, where he negotiates contracts for celebrities, producers and professional athletes, such as Serena Williams and Oprah Winfrey. He is the father of four children ages 4 to 20.
He has advocated for de-escalation techniques that would help reduce the number of LAPD shootings, but that has not exempted him from angry verbal attacks from the activists, who complain he has not done enough.
According to Johnson's court declaration, the reference to his children occurred at a Police Commission meeting Nov. 1.
In an official audio recording of the meeting, Ferguson stated that Johnson has four children, one of whom is a boy. Ferguson then drew a connection between Johnson's son and African American victims of police violence, saying he hoped Johnson would not become a grieving parent.
"You have not only chosen the side of men like Charlie Beck and [Mayor] Eric Garcetti, you have chosen to be their errand boy," Ferguson continued. "So run, boy, and tell your masters: The city is ours now."
Johnson's declaration cited another incident from the Dec. 13 commission meeting. Ferguson made statements during public comment and from the audience that Johnson should feel scared of him and suggesting that the two men meet outside of a board meeting, the declaration said.
On the official audio recording of the meeting, Ferguson spoke about crime and the community before stating: "Ultimately, I know you guys don't care — and I see the houseboy Matt Johnson over on his phone or whatever, like this."
Ferguson then referenced human rights abuses and the lawlessness that might result from "zero accountability." "When 4 million people realize how [messed up] you are, you will not be able to stop that tide," he said. "And it's coming. And it's coming for all of you."
On Dec. 16, the declaration said, Ferguson went to Johnson's law firm in Century City with other protesters. He managed to get past the receptionist and into the elevator, which is operated with key cards, arriving at Johnson's 10th-floor office and "angrily demanding to speak to me," the declaration said.
Johnson was not there, but one of his law partners made Ferguson leave.
Two days later, Ferguson went to Johnson's Sherman Oaks home in the late afternoon, the declaration said. Johnson's wife and children were home, and Ferguson was detained by police.
Ferguson told The Times in December that he visited Johnson's office and home with a group of people who were protesting peacefully.
The activists sought out Johnson on his home turf because speaking at Police Commission meetings, which are held at LAPD headquarters, no longer was enough, Ferguson said.
"We felt the people on the board were allowed to be complicit in violence, basically to be a rubber-stamping body," Ferguson said. "It was time to engage them in other spaces, where the playing field was more even."

The Real Deal

Garcetti hasn't done a damn thing to stop collusion between politicians and developers: Measure S

Backers of Measure S are going after Mayor Eric Garcetti for not yet delivering on a pledge to ban private conversations between real estate developers and city planning officials.
Garcetti said in September that he planned to prohibit such ex parte communications, but has yet to issue an executive directive on the matter, the Los Angeles Times reported.
"It was a ploy," Jill Stewart, campaign director for Yes on S, told the Times. "It got him some good press ... and he hasn't done a damn thing."
Garcetti's office maintains that the executive directive will be released soon. The process entails research, legal consultation and input from various stakeholders, according to spokesperson George Kivork.
Meanwhile, opponents of Measure S point out that the ballot measure itself doesn't ban such meetings or prohibit developers from contributing to the political campaigns of city officials.
Backers counter that, by prohibiting general plan amendments and the practice of "spot-zoning," developers will no longer have a reason to donate extensively to politicians.
Last year, the California Assembly voted down a proposal to ban ex-parte communication between California Coastal Commission officials and real estate players. Opponents of that proposal argued that the ban would hinder free speech.
The measure's on Garcetti follows statements last week from the Mayor that Measure S had used his image and statements out of context in their campaign advertisements — in order to indicate that he supported the measure, which he does not. He said the mailers were a "dirty trick."

Jewish Journal

Measure S asks voters: How do we do density in LA?

By Eitan Arom

Gustavo Flores sees his fight against a local development project as a struggle for the character of his neighborhood. In late 2014, a developer rolled out plans for four restaurants and a bar a few blocks from his Westlake home, on an intersection with three nearby schools. To Flores and his allies, it was a disaster, an example of development gone wrong. What's more, nobody in the city establishment seemed to be listening — not the local police captain, not the neighborhood council, not Gilbert Cedillo, the city councilmember for the East Los Angeles neighborhood.

"They're never looking out for us," Flores said of City Hall. "They care about the people with the big bucks."

So when he heard about Measure S, an initiative on the March 7 ballot that would restrict dense development and impose sweeping land-use reforms, he was heartened. Somebody was finally talking his language.

And it wasn't just talk. Since last year, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), led by president Michael Weinstein, has funneled more than $4.5 million into the campaign. Effectively, Weinstein has bankrolled a conversation about how and where Los Angeles will develop, galvanizing a patchwork of neighborhood advocates into a unified front against city politicians.

But even if the measure passes, serious questions linger about what effect it will have and whether it will accomplish the goals it sets out. The most controversial item in the measure is a two-year moratorium on construction projects that use exceptions from the city to build denser than would otherwise be allowed.

Other provisions would change the way environmental impact reports are compiled and rule out the practice of "spot zoning" that allows the city to carve out parts of neighborhoods for different uses. Advocates hope these changes will help stem a rise in housing costs and bring equity to L.A. building policy.

"It's really a matter of equality and whether or not Los Angeles is going to becoming a rich ghetto like Manhattan or San Francisco," Weinstein told the Journal.

Consensus and contention

Few observers are thrilled with the way Los Angeles approaches housing. Most agree that outdated planning documents mean big projects proceed on a case-by-case basis, with developers approaching City Hall to bend the rules when they want to increase density.

"The city has decided that they want more density along transit corridors, but the plans don't provide for it," said Century City-based land-use attorney Benjamin Reznik.

He agrees with proponents of Measure S about the need to update the General Plan and 35 community plans that govern construction in L.A., but he called the initiative ill-conceived and poorly written, pointing out that it fails to provide funding for the community planning process it mandates. "It's not going to achieve the goals they want to achieve," he said.

Yes on S campaign director Jill Stewart described the city's approach to land use as "piecemeal, piecemeal, piecemeal." She argued that the process is governed through shady backroom deals, with developers rewarding politicians for approving their projects through campaign funds.

"They're planning L.A. by which developers reward them the most," Stewart said. "And it's — it's insane, really."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who has loudly opposed the measure, flatly rejected the claim in an interview with the Journal.

"Outdated zoning and community plans is a real problem," he said. "That cozy relationship is not."

Garcetti dismissed those who paint a picture of corruption as "conspiracy theorists." As for the fact that community plans are outdated, "Well, I didn't need Measure S to tell me that," he said.

In his first budget, the mayor said he put a premium on hiring city planners to accelerate the process of updating L.A.'s planning documents. Still, he estimated those plans will take six to seven years to fully update.

A survey of 300 Angelenos by independent polling firm Probolsky Research found in February that 46 percent were planning to vote against Measure S while 34 percent planned on supporting it. But if it passes, Garcetti said the city would move the most outdated community plans to the front of the queue for revision in order to allow development to proceed. Nonetheless, the picture he painted is not a pretty one.

"If you think homelessness is bad now, Measure S will make it worse," he said. "And, even though we have a prosperous economy, we will lose jobs."

And it's not only the mayor, but also some community activists who make the economic argument against the measure.

"It will be devastating," said Rabbi Jonathan Klein, executive director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, an L.A.-based community-organizing group. "Millions and millions of dollars, if not hundreds of millions, will be lost."

Measure S would mostly impact large projects that increase housing capacity, according to analysis by the UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies.

A small proportion of construction projects require the type of exception banned by the two-year moratorium, the analysis suggested, pegging that proportion somewhere below 27 percent. Between 2011 and 2016, that amounted to fewer than 4,000 units.

Still, "exceptions are important tools to build higher density," the report noted, since they're mostly used to green light larger development projects. For instance, it pointed to a complex in Reseda that houses 240 low-income people on the former site of an under-utilized church. The project would not have been allowed under Measure S. Projects like the Riverwalk at Reseda are cited as evidence that the measure would be self-defeating and actually make neighborhoods less affordable.

Critics also insist it would stymie efforts to house the homeless.

"We can't necessarily build our way out of [the homeless] crisis, but dampening the production of more housing is going to make the problem worse," said Amy Anderson, executive director of PATH Ventures, the development arm of

People Assisting the Homeless (PATH).
But advocates say that logic is faulty since the measure would target luxury units rather than affordable ones. Grace Yoo, a community leader in Koreatown and former city council candidate, dismissed allegations that Measure S would increase rents and homelessness.
"They go, 'Well, if you don't build more luxury units, you're going to cause more homelessness,' " she said. "And we're going, 'In what world is that true?' "
Crossed wires on homelessness
In theory, the measure's moratorium allows low-income housing proposals to seek exceptions for zoning and height, but not amendments to the city's General Plan.
Anderson said a review of the measure's language by knowledgeable members of PATH's board, including former L.A. city planning director Con Howe, found "there's in fact not an exception for affordable housing" since many affordable housing projects require General Plan amendments to proceed. What's more, Measure S could get in the way of Measure HHH, the $1.2 billion bond for homeless and affordable housing construction voters approved in November, she said.
Garcetti has proposed 12 city-owned properties as sites for bond building. "Eleven of those 12 would be dead in the water if S passes — they require General Plan amendments," he said.
Weinstein's solution is simply to look elsewhere. "There are thousands of sites across the cities where you could build housing," he said.
Populist or pest?
To his critics, Weinstein is a busybody whose electioneering is simply a ploy to stop a construction project that would block the view from his Hollywood office. To his proponents, though, he's a crusader for empowering community advocates over real estate barons running roughshod over their neighborhoods.
"I am grateful that there's someone willing to stand up to the bullies of City Hall," Yoo said of Weinstein's efforts.
But even though AHF has put up nearly 99 percent of the funds behind Measure S, Weinstein insists the conversation should not be about him, but rather about who the city council truly represents.
"They want to make it about me because they want to change the subject," he said of his detractors in City Hall. "Because they're doing the bidding of the billionaires, and they don't want that talked about."
In April, he made an enemy of one of those billionaires when he sued to stop a pair of condo towers slated to go up across the street from AHF's offices on Sunset Boulevard. Since then, the developer on that project, Crescent Heights, run by Israeli real estate billionaire Sonny Kahn, has poured more than $1 million into the No on S campaign, or more than 60 percent of the campaign's total budget in 2016. Crescent Heights declined to comment on the donations.
Weinstein points to the preponderance of developers against his measure as a sign that he's on the right track (though labor groups such as the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations also are major contributors to the No on S campaign).
The nonprofit director says his motives are entirely altruistic. He insists he's doing his job by trying to help the AIDS and HIV patients his organization serves, and who are disproportionately hurt by the housing squeeze.
"In the broader sense, you have to look at the social determinants of health," he said. "Health is not restricted to medications and doctors and nurses."
Cause and effect
The most common criticism of Measure S is that it won't do what proponents say it will. Even if one assumes backroom dealing exists, for instance, Measure S "doesn't even begin to address" that problem, said Reznik, the land-use lawyer.
"If you want to take the politics out of land use, take zoning power out of the hands of the councils and put it in the hands of planners," he said.
Reznik is among a class of city planning professionals who have lined up behind Garcetti's contention that "land use by referendum is usually a bad idea in the first place."
"The chances of solving this from the ballot box are very, very small," said Marlon Boarnet, chair of USC's Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis.
Among his colleagues, Boarnet says he finds few, if any, who support Measure S. He said he personally views the measure as a wrongheaded attempt that will impede the city's growth.
"As much as I want to respect neighborhoods, Los Angeles has hit a moment where we need to think as a city," he said. Thinking as a city means increasing density along transit corridors, he maintains, even over the complaints of some communities.
Weinstein is unfazed by the critics. He insists the moratorium will help break City Hall of its dependence on campaign funds from donors, resulting in smarter development in the long run.
"You have to take the crack pipe away from the addict at some point," he said.
For local advocates like Yoo and Flores, Weinstein and his foundation's millions represent an evening of the score between the little guy and billionaire developers.
Flores, 27, an aspiring law student with four children, has lived in Westlake over the course of a decade when property values climbed rapidly and dense development began to seem inevitable. He's not looking to stop development in its tracks but wishes it would happen in a smarter way.
"I know development's gonna happen, and in my opinion, it's good," he said. "But let's have responsible development."

After a cameo in La La Land, Angel's Flight railway set to fly again by Labor Day

By City News Service

Los Angeles officials say the Angels Flight railway, which has been closed since one of the cars jumped the tracks in 2013, will be reopened by Labor Day under a new partnership that will include safety upgrades.

The historic Angels Flight railway, which has been closed since one of the two rail cars came off the tracks in September 2013, will reopen by Labor Day with a new operator, city officials announced today.

Thanks to a 30-year agreement with the ACS company, the short funicular on Bunker Hill will be upgraded and renovated, and safety improvements will be made, including the installation of an emergency walkway along the short route.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Jose Huizar were among those taking part in the announcement, which was made in the shadow of the railway and its twin cars, Sinai and Olivet. The railway had a brief cameo in the Oscar- nominated musical "La La Land," with stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone seen seated in one of the rail cars, then exiting through the gate at the top of the hill.

The Metro Board of Directors approved a motion by Garcetti in 2015 to study ways to re-open Angels Flight, which travels a short distance along Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles.

Angels Flight is a "very important part of our transportation system" and fills "a special place in the hearts of Angelenos," Garcetti said at the July 23, 2015, meeting when the motion was approved.

There were six people riding the funicular when it had its most recent accident, but none were injured. A National Transportation Safety Board report released a month later indicated that railway operators had been using a tree branch for months to bypass a safety feature on the railcar.

The nonprofit Angels Flight Railway owns Angels Flight's equipment, including its tracks and cars, and has a ground lease that allows it to operate the funicular, according to its president, Hal Bastian. He said federal officials and the California Public Utilities Commission were requiring Angels Flight's operators to build a walkway next to the tracks before operations can resume.

Col. J.W. Eddy first opened a funicular rail up Bunker Hill on Dec. 31, 1901, when rides cost a penny. It was dismantled and put into storage in 1969 because of the Bunker Hill urban renewal project, then rebuilt and reopened in 1996, a half-block south of the original site.

In 2001, an accident that killed one person and seriously injured seven others prompted another closure that lasted nine years. Angels Flight reopened in 2010, in time for the railway's celebration of its 110th anniversary on New Year's Eve 2010.

The CPUC shut it down for almost a month in June 2012 when inspectors found that a wheel part that holds the cars on the track, the flange, had been worn down to a thickness that was unsafe on three of eight wheels.

The funicular re-opened July 5, 2012, after the operator installed all new wheels made of harder steel. When it most recently was in operation, the railway still used its original cars from 1901, named Olivet and Sinai.

LA Times

Angels Flight expected to be reopen by Labor Day, officials say

By Laura Nelson

Angels Flight, the iconic downtown funicular that has been dormant for more than three years, could be operating again by Labor Day under a new agreement announced Wednesday.

A team led by the ACS company will assume responsibility for repairing, modernizing and operating the railway over the next three decades, officials said.

"At a moment when downtown is experiencing this resurgence, the timing couldn't be better," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference at the base of the 298-foot railway.

Angels Flight and its twin cars, named Sinai and Olivet, have sat dormant since a derailment in 2013 that left the sole passenger, a tourist from Australia, shaken but unhurt.

The funicular's spotty safety record, including the death of a passenger in a crash in 2001, attracted the attention of state regulators, who have refused to allow Angels Flight to resume operations without a series of potentially costly safety upgrades.

Those requirements include raising the height of the train's doors to prevent passengers from being flung out during a sudden stop and installing a walkway connected to the track that riders could use if they had to evacuate.

Angels Flight officials have not revealed the expected cost of repairs, except to say it would be a "very significant number." Railway President Hal Bastian has unsuccessfully urged the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to take control of Angels Flight.

As Angels Flight sits dormant, an adjacent 153-step stairway has served as the only direct pedestrian connection linking Bunker Hill's high-rise apartments and offices with the tacos, pastrami and lattes at Grand Central Market.

The steps often are strewn with trash. On a recent weekday, after a torrential rainfall, the stairs were dotted with fast-food wrappers, a soggy pair of shoes and a handful of lottery tickets dissolving in a puddle.

Wednesday's announcement is the latest twist in the long saga of the world's shortest funicular.

Opened on New Year's Eve in 1901, the iconic orange cars of Angels Flight once shuttled residents of luxe Victorian homes on Bunker Hill to jobs in downtown L.A.

By the 1950s, the railroad had carried more than 100 million passengers. But as residents moved to the suburbs, downtown fell on hard times. The funicular closed in 1969 as crews bulldozed Bunker Hill's old housing to make way

for skyscrapers.
The twin rail cars sat rotting in a warehouse for decades until redevelopment authorities included funding for renovating the funicular in the California Plaza project. Angels Flight reopened in 1996, half a block south of its original location, carrying passengers on a 33-degree incline between Hill and Olive streets.
In 2001, Sinai broke loose near the top of the incline and plummeted down the track, striking Olivet. The impact killed an 83-year-old tourist from New Jersey on vacation with his wife and injured seven other people.
Investigators later concluded that faulty mechanical and brake systems, combined with weak oversight, led to the crash.
The railway was closed for the next nine years. Not long after Sinai and Olivet began running again, state Public Utilities Commission inspectors briefly halted operations after finding "excessive and abnormal wear" on the car's wheels and tracks.
After the 2013 derailment, federal officials found other issues. A report issued by the National Transportation Safety Board said the funicular's operators had used a tree branch to override the safety system, which had been causing unexpected stops.
After the derailment, one passenger climbed out of the car and crawled along the tracks toward the upper platform, state regulators said.
The funicular sat dormant for nearly two years even as the clamor to reopen the line grew louder.
At the urging of Garcetti, who at the time was the chair of the Metro board, transportation officials there agreed to study the issue and make a recommendation on how to resume operations. Staff members later recommended that the nonprofit organization that manages the funicular perform a "detailed analysis" of the funding, staffing and maintenance requirements, and left it at that.

ABC Los Angeles

Angels Flight Railway To Reopen In DTLA By Labor Day

The historic Angels Flight railway, the beloved short-distance funicular in downtown Los Angeles, is expected to reopen by Labor Day after being closed since 2013.
Mayor Eric Garcetti made the big announcement at a news conference held at the bottom of the historic railway on Wednesday.
Garcetti said the beloved railway will reopen by Labor Day 2017.
According to the mayor, the California Public Utilities Commission has certified a plan to operate Angels Flight by high safety standards. He said the Angels Flight Railway Foundation and ACS Group recently finalized an agreement to recondition, operate and maintain the funicular for the next 30 years.
"At a moment when downtown is experiencing this resurgence, the timing couldn't be better," Garcetti said.
The funicular, which is touted as the world's shortest railway, closed in September 2013 after one of the two rail cars came off the tracks.
"When thousands of Angelenos signed a letter to me testifying on behalf of the beloved railway, I heard you," the mayor said.
When it was most recently in operation, the railway still used its original cars from 1901, named Olivet and Sinai.
Col. J.W. Eddy first opened a funicular rail up Bunker Hill on Dec. 31, 1901, when rides cost a penny.
"I can't promise the same prices that folks were paying in 1901. I can say that MTA will be giving a 50 percent discount on fares for all Metro TAP card holder," he said. This discount will be valid for the next three years.
The railway was dismantled and put into storage in 1969 because of the Bunker Hill urban renewal project, then rebuilt and reopened in 1996, a half-block south of the original site.
Angels Flight, which travels a short distance between Hill and Olive Streets on Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles, was recently featured in the movie, "La La Land."
The railway has given more than 100 million rides along its hillside track, city officials said in a news release.

LAist

Historic Angels Flight To Reopen Labor Day 2017

By Tim Loc
Angels Flight, everyone's favorite funicular, is returning by Labor Day. The announcement was made during a noontime press conference on Wednesday with Mayor Eric Garcetti and Los Angeles Councilmember Jose Huizar.
A release said that the reopening is made possible through a public-private partnership between ACS Infrastructure Development Inc and the nonprofit Angels Flight Railway Foundation. Other key partners were involved in the project to revive Angels Flight, with Metro and the City of Los Angeles also taking part. Speaking on efforts to get the funicular up and running again, Garcetti said that it was "The longest journey to the shortest ride ever."
The mayor added that the reason why it closed in 2013 was because of operational issues; the L.A. Times reports that it had derailed. Sitting idle for years, Angels Flight had become a target for graffiti.
Garcetti emphasized his confidence that Angels Flight will be running in the best condition possible when it reopens. "I will be here riding it myself. That's how confident I am in these engineers," said Garcetti.
We'll be updating with more information.

CBS Los Angeles

Downtown LA's Historic Angels Flight Railway To Reopen By Labor Day, Officials Say

The historic Angels Flight railway, which has been closed since one of the two rail cars came off the tracks in September 2013, will reopen by Labor Day with a new operator, city officials announced Wednesday.

Thanks to a 30-year agreement with the ACS company, the short funicular on Bunker Hill will be upgraded and renovated, and safety improvements will be made, including the installation of an emergency walkway along the short route.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Jose Huizar were among those taking part in the announcement, which was made in the shadow of the railway and its twin cars, Sinai and Olivet. The railway had a brief cameo in the Oscar-nominated musical "La La Land," with stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone seen seated in one of the rail cars, then exiting through the gate at the top of the hill.

The Metro Board of Directors approved a motion by Garcetti in 2015 to study ways to re-open Angels Flight, which travels a short distance along Bunker Hill in downtown Los Angeles.

Angels Flight is a "very important part of our transportation system" and fills "a special place in the hearts of Angelenos," Garcetti said at the July 23, 2015, meeting when the motion was approved.

There were six people riding the funicular when it had its most recent accident, but none were injured. A National Transportation Safety Board report released a month later indicated that railway operators had been using a tree branch for months to bypass a safety feature on the railcar.

The nonprofit Angels Flight Railway owns Angels Flight's equipment, including its tracks and cars, and had a ground lease allowing it to operate the funicular, according to its president, Hal Bastian. He said federal officials and the California Public Utilities Commission were requiring Angels Flight's operators to build a walkway next to the tracks before operations can resume.

Col. J.W. Eddy first opened a funicular rail up Bunker Hill on Dec. 31, 1901, when rides cost a penny. It was dismantled and put into storage in 1969 because of the Bunker Hill urban renewal project, then rebuilt and reopened in 1996, a half-block south of the original site.

In 2001, an accident that killed one person and seriously injured seven others prompted another closure that lasted nine years. Angels Flight reopened in 2010, in time for the railway's celebration of its 110th anniversary on New Year's Eve 2010.

The CPUC shut it down for almost a month in June 2012 when inspectors found that a wheel part that holds the cars on the track, the flange, had been worn down to a thickness that was unsafe on three of eight wheels.

The funicular re-opened July 5, 2012, after the operator installed all new wheels made of harder steel.

Downtown News

Angels Flight To Reopen By Labor Day

By Nicholas Slayton

Angels Flight has been out of service for three and a half years. If all goes according to plan, the funicular known as the "world's shortest railway" will reopen by Labor Day.

Mayor Eric Garcetti today announced that a public-private partnership has been worked out that will allow a safety ramp to be built for the railway connecting Bunker Hill to Hill Street. The California Public Utilities Commissions, which regulates Angels Flight, has refused to allow it to resume operations until that is installed.

Angels Flight will reopen through a public-private partnership with the Madrid-based ACS Group and the engineering firm SENER, which will work together as the Angels Flight Development Company. That entity has a 30-year contract to operate Angels Flight. Representatives from ACS and SENER said this will be their first project in Downtown Los Angeles.

Garcetti said his office has been working on the partnership for
just over a year. The railway has been closed since a derailment in 2013.

"Year after year we saw this city grow, and one thing remained: Angels Flight was here," Garcetti said during an event at the base of Angels Flight. "It became an icon for this city, joining the Sixth Street bridge [and] the Hollywood sign as landmarks immortalized."

Angels Flight opened in 1901, and operated for nearly seven decades. It closed in 1969, then returned in a new location in 1996.

The revival was short-lived, as the railway closed following a fatal accident in 2001. The funicular's drive system and other elements were replaced, and it resumed operations in 2010.

That return, however, also proved temporary, and there were periodic shutdowns. After the September 2013 derailment, a blistering report from the National Transportation Safety Board found a number of shortcomings, including operators in the control booth using a tree branch to manually override an automatic stop order.

The Angels Flight Railway Foundation, a nonprofit run by volnteers that operated the funicular, made numerous fixes, but the CPUC refused to allow operations to resume until an emergency walkway was built next to the tracks.

Angels Flight Cameo is a No-No

Even though the funicular is not running, the Angels Flight Railway Foundation has been spending nearly $6,000 each month on maintenance and insurance, according to Adele Yellin, chair of the board for the foundation. The funicular most recently had a short cameo in the Oscar-winning film La La Land.

Rides in the past cost 25 cents. Prices for the restored funicular have not been set, but Garcetti said Metro TAP card

holders will get a 50% discount for three years.
The Angels Flight Development Group will be making safety improvements including building the emergency walkway. There will also be upgrades on the doors of the Sinai and Olivet cars.
Garcetti called the extended effort to bring Angels Flight back "the longest journey to the shortest ride ever."

LA Business Journal

DTLA's Angels Flight Railway To Reopen By Labor Day

By Howard Fine
The historic but troubled Angels Flight railway in DTLA will reopen to the public by Labor Day, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Wednesday.
The 116-year-old, 298-foot funicular that descends from Bunker Hill to the Historic Core – touted as the world's shortest railway – was shut down after a derailment in September 2013. That followed a nine-year shutdown after a railcar broke loose in 2001, raced down the hill and collided with a railcar at the bottom, killing one passenger and injuring seven.
Since the 2013 mishap, the nonprofit Angels Flight Railway Foundation, that manages the railway, led a complete overhaul of the rail system, installing new mechanical and electrical systems designed to prevent derailments of runaway railcars. The new system also had to pass muster with the California Public Utilities Commission, which oversees rail safety.
"Angels Flight is a cultural gem that tells an unforgettable story about the history of Los Angeles," Garcetti said in a statement. "Today, we celebrate the rebirth of this iconic attraction - and once the modernization is complete, we will welcome millions of visitors from around the world to experience it with us."
To make the reopening possible, the Angels Flight Railway Foundation and ACS Group, a Madrid, Spain-based engineering and construction firm, finalized an agreement last week to recondition, operate and maintain the funicular for the next 30 years, the statement from Garcetti's office said. Sener Engineering, of Gexto, Spain and Dragados USA of New York are also on the project team.
In addition to its tourist draw, the funicular will serve as an important transit connection between the Pershing Square Metro station and the top of Bunker Hill - an area that includes Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Broad Contemporary Art Museum, MOCA, the Los Angeles Music Center, among other cultural institutions. As part of the agreement, Metro tap card holders will receive a 50 percent fare discount for the next three years.
"It is truly a historic day for one of Los Angeles' most recognized treasures," Councilman José Huizar, who represents downtown, said in a statement. "It is our hope that this public-private partnership ensures the new Angels Flight will be safe, economically sustainable and - once again - a key Los Angeles cultural centerpiece for years to come."

LA Magazine

Angels Flight Railway Is Finally Reopening And We Can't Contain Ourselves

This is big, guys. Angels Flight—that long-defunct, deeply beloved orange funicular between Grand Central Market and Bunker Hill downtown—is finally, finally making its return.
Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Jose Huizar were present this afternoon to announce the historic mini-railway's reopening (it was shut down in 2013 after a series of accidents). It's set to reopen on Labor Day, which, honestly, is longer than any of us want to wait to fully experience the city like Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, but hey, we'll take it.
Kim Cooper and Richard Schave—founders of Esotouric and perhaps Angels Flight's most vocal devotees—have been gunning to get the funicular operational again for years, launching a Kickstarter campaign in 2015 that has finally paid off. They were on site live-tweeting the announcement.

KPCC

As LA City Council incumbent Koretz seeks third term, opponent pushes for runoff

By Mary Plummer
One of the most competitive Los Angeles City Council contests that voters could decide next week pits the incumbent against two challengers – one with a large campaign war chest to leverage.
Councilmember Paul Koretz is running for his third term representing District 5. Covering communities like Bel Air, Encino, Hollywood and Westwood, the district is among the wealthiest and well-educated among the council's 15 represented areas.
Koretz' challengers are Mark Herd, who has been active in several community groups and is the founder of the Westwood Neighborhood Council, and attorney Jesse Creed.
Among the challengers in the eight City Council contests on Tuesday's primary election ballot, Creed is the top campaign fundraiser, with the exception of one candidate running for the open District 7 seat in the San Fernando Valley.
Creed has collected about $298,800 in contributions, as of the latest filling deadline, but is trailing incumbent Koretz who has about $440,300 in contributions. Both Koretz and Creed also accepted public matching funds. Herd has not reported any fundraising.
Creed claims he's gained significant local support by walking the district's neighborhoods. He said he has spent three to five hours a day since December knocking on doors.

"Our donation base comes from individuals, people with a pulse, not PACs, corporations or LLCs. And it comes from people who live in and around the city," he said.
Koretz points toward accomplishments like helping to save the Century Plaza Hotel, boosting code enforcements and his work on environmental issues. He is well-known as an advocate for animal rights and worked to outlaw declawing cats and puppy mills in Los Angeles.
For his next term, Koretz said he'll be able to get more done for constituents thanks to funding improvements, a reference to improved city revenues since the recession.
"We'll trim more trees, but we've been doing that already. We'll fix more streets, but we've been doing that already. We have money committed to fix sidewalks and we'll do that more aggressively," he said.
Creed promises he will only be beholden to voters and he's taken a pledge not to accept any money from developers or lobbyists.
"I will be an independent voice for the neighborhoods, for residents, for the basic issues that people care about on a day-to-day basis," he said.
Koretz dismisses Creed's charges that the incumbent is beholden to developers. Koretz took heat for his handling of the developer Rick Caruso's high-rise residential building project located across from the Beverly Center.
The Los Angeles Times reported that Koretz received $2,200 in donations from Caruso. After the story ran, Koretz removed his support for the project, and then ultimately restored his support after Caruso lowered the project's height by 55 feet.
Koretz told KPCC "it didn't turn out perfectly." He said he'd intended to remove his support for the project all along unless it was shortened, but was motivated to act faster when the Beverly Wilshire Homes Association held a press conference to voice strong opposition to the project.
"At the end of the day, I think it was the right compromise," Koretz said.
He called Creed's campaign "the most shockingly negative" that he's ever seen.
"Every developer in town knows I've been their worst enemy," Koretz said. "The idea that contributions have made me any less independent, I think, is absurd."
Despite the Caruso project controversy, Koretz was among five incumbent City Council members endorsed by the Los Angeles Times. The newspaper praised him for caring "deeply about his district and his constituents" and for making himself available to them.
On the other hand, the Los Angeles Daily News endorsed Creed, noting his work as an advocate for homeless veterans and what it described as his broad knowledge of district issues.
Koretz also has the backing of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and several politicians like Mayor Eric Garcetti.
If no candidate reaches the majority threshold of 50 percent of voter support plus one vote in the primary, then the top two vote-getters will move on to the general election on May 16.
Voters who are still undecided on the District 5 race can check out KPCC's candidate survey, which features the candidates' backgrounds and answers to campaign questions.

LA Times

Councilman Koretz fights for a third term on the Westside

By Dave Zahniser
The last time Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz ran for reelection, he had an easy time of it.
Koretz's lone opponent in 2013 spent less than $98. The councilman sent a few mailers and breezed to victory, capturing 75% of the vote in his affluent Westside-to-Encino district.
The competition is more intense in this year's run-up to Tuesday's election, thanks largely to a challenge from Jesse Creed, an attorney who has tapped a reservoir of campaign donations from lawyers and the entertainment industry.
In debates and in campaign mail, Koretz and Creed have traded charges over ethics, real estate development and the influence of special interests. The campaign's overall cost has already exceeded $750,000.
Creed went on the attack early, slamming Koretz for accepting tens of thousands of dollars in donations from real estate interests — a practice that, while legal, has become more controversial amid a citywide debate over growth. He contends that a "pay-to-play culture" at City Hall is resulting in poor planning, congested streets and an overburdened infrastructure.
"Political money leads to bad developments that are not transit-oriented," said Creed, who lives in L.A.'s Beverly Grove neighborhood. "And bad developments that are not transit-oriented lead to a ton more traffic."
Koretz, also a Beverly Grove resident, has turned the tables on Creed, filing a complaint accusing him of illegally coordinating with an outside campaign group. Creed has denied that claim.
The councilman also says he has a track record of standing up to special interests, including those who have donated to him, by opposing projects ranging from Bel-Air mansions to the sprawling Playa Vista development.
Koretz also voiced support for full public financing of campaigns, saying such a measure would address the perception that "pay to play" influences council decisions.
"I can't say that's absolutely untrue of every council member. But I can say that of me," Koretz told one debate audience. "If you look at the projects I've opposed, I've ticked off my supporters. I've ticked off labor especially."
Development has been a long-standing issue in Koretz's 5th Council District, which takes in such well-to-do communities as Bel-Air, Beverly Crest, Carthay Circle, Cheviot Hills and Westwood. But the topic is especially potent

this year, thanks to the campaign over Measure S, which would put new resrictions on construction of housing, shops and offices.
Creed and Koretz oppose Measure S, saying it would impede efforts to build affordable housing. A third candidate in the race, political consultant Mark Herd, favors the proposal, saying it will address traffic and the influence of political money.
"The only way we stop this corruption in government is if we vote yes on Measure S," Herd said at a Westwood campaign event.
Herd challenged Koretz unsuccessfully in 2013, then went on to lose races for Congress and U.S. Senate. As of Feb. 18, he had not reported raising any money, relying instead on Facebook and other methods to spread his message.
Council District 5 has some of the most organized neighborhood groups in the city, which have used their money and clout to square off against well-funded developers and lobbyists.
Koretz, for his part, says he has been the most "anti-development" member of the council — with the possible exception of Councilman David Ryu, who was elected in 2015. At the same time, he portrays himself as someone who works to ensure that developers and their critics work together and hash out their differences.
"Every developer wants to build in CD 5," he said. "And almost every resident wants nothing built."
A political veteran, Koretz has served in the state Assembly and on two City Councils — first West Hollywood, later L.A. He is backed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, who employs his wife, and an array of other politicians. Despite his assertion he antagonized unions, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor has spent more than $105,000 to help him win a third term.
Koretz has touted his wide-ranging support from neighborhood leaders. And he has repeatedly portrayed Creed as an opportunistic newcomer with no record of accomplishment in the district.
"It's just odd," he told The Times. "You rarely see someone run for office as a serious candidate that has done nothing in their district."
Creed disagrees with that assessment, pointing to his work helping to develop a plan for constructing 1,200 units of homeless housing at the Veterans Affairs campus in West Los Angeles. Although that facility is just outside the 5th District, it will serve veterans across the Westside, he said.
The Toronto-born Creed spent four years with the firm Munger, Tolles and Olson specializing in nonprofit law, then quit to run for council full time. He continues to sit on the board of Equitas Academy, a group of charter schools.
Creed contends that Koretz has been follower, not a leader, on issues that emerged during the campaign. One example, he said, was Koretz's decision last fall to support a 20-story residential tower near the Beverly Center. Creed came out against the project at a Dec. 30 news conference, saying it was too tall and needed more affordable housing. Hours later, Koretz abruptly called his own press event at the same intersection, announcing he had rescinded his support and wanted more concessions.
After developer Rick Caruso reduced the project's height and offered more money for affordable housing, Koretz backed it again.
Koretz hailed the result as a compromise. But Century City resident Greg Laemmle, a Creed supporter, believes Koretz acted only because an opponent had brought up the issue.
"If the issue hadn't been raised in that fashion, Paul would have been happy to let it go forward as it was," he said.
Creed contends he also led on campaign finance, by promising early in the campaign not to accept donations from real estate developers. Later on, Koretz signed on to a council proposal to bar developers from giving donations to city elected officials.
Koretz said that proposal would not have garnered support from so many council members before the campaign. Creed countered that Koretz had years to build consensus. "I've led and Paul has followed," he said.
That view was not shared by Steven Luftman, a resident of South Carthay who has worked with Koretz to prevent rent-controlled apartments from being demolished — and tenants from being evicted.
Luftman praised Koretz for championing a proposal to put new limits on mansionization, the practice of building extra-large homes on small lots. Koretz also showed courage, he said, in creating a new historic district in Carthay Square despite pushback from some property owners, he said.
"I have dealt with [Koretz] on multiple occasions," said the 55-year-old art director. "And he has always done the right thing."
If Koretz fails to secure more than 50% of the vote, the top two candidates will face off in a May 16 runoff. L.A. voters have a long history of siding with incumbents, making that scenario less likely.
Since 1995, incumbents at City Hall have won reelection in 64 out of 67 contests.

CBS Los Angeles

Garcetti: City Should Refund Drivers Ticketed By Faulty Camera

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said Wednesday that the city should refund potentially hundreds of drivers who may have been wrongfully ticketed by a faulty photo-enforcement camera in Watts.
On Monday, CBS2 exposed a faulty photo-enforcement camera at the Metro Blue Line crossing at East Century Boulevard and Grandee Avenue. At the intersection, the traffic light remains green at the same time the crossing gates come down.
CBS2 learned that in 2015, 34 photo enforcement tickets were issued at the intersection. In 2016, there were 807, an increase of more than 2,000 percent. If all paid, that equates to almost $400,000 in fines.

Last August, William Taylor of Watts received a $490 red light citation in the mail. Taylor decided to fight the ticket, pushing his case before the MTA. In January, an agency chief admitted, "I have reviewed the merits of your claim and frankly, I agree with you. I believe the light phasing is confusing for traffic and that you should be refunded."
MTA spokeswoman Paula Tonilas told CBS2 that because of Taylor's case, the intersection is now being redesigned. Another traffic light will be added to remove confusion. However, since last month, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has not stopped issuing tickets at the intersection despite the ruling on Taylor's case.
On Wednesday, Garcetti, who is the first vice chair of the MTA Board Of Directors, told CBS2 that wrongfully ticketed drivers should "absolutely" get their money back.
"I would encourage MTA to refund those dollars, and for the sheriff to stop issuing those tickets until it's fixed," Garcetti said. "Certainly I would vote for that as an MTA leader."
In 2014, CBS2 exposed city traffic officers issuing tickets for street cleaning in areas where the tickets shouldn't have been written. Garcetti ordered a refund there as well.
"The cost was a couple of million dollars, but I think it was the right thing to do and I think Metro should as well," Garcetti said.
When asked earlier about why people who may have wrongly been issued tickets were not being given refunds, Tonilas responded, "Well, we're not going to be in the practice of letting people off the hook who broke the law."
The MTA issued the following statement to CBS2 Wednesday evening.
"While Metro believes the light phasing and traffic light placement at the Century/Grandee crossing conforms to industry standards, due to concerns expressed, Metro will stop issuing citations at this intersection while we continue to review this matter and work with the City of Los Angeles to enhance the intersection with an additional near side traffic light."

KPCC

New restrictions on McMansions passed by LA City Council

Los Angeles is making moves to prevent the construction of larger, boxy homes on small lots, a common practice of real estate developers known as "McMansions."
After March, developers will have to follow a new set of amendments to the city's Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, a law that determines how big a new single-family home can be in relation to its lot size.
The City Council unanimously approved those amendments on Wednesday.
The news comes as a relief to neighbors with smaller, older homes, Councilmember Paul Koretz, who represents parts of the Westside, told KPCC. Many residents in his district want to limit the construction of large, towering McMansions that can block sunlight, reduce street parking options and look out of place in older neighborhoods. The amendments also include restrictions on sharp, boxy angles on roofs.
"People have been the most upset about giant stucko boxes, lot line to lot line," Koretz said. "It blocks their air, it blocks their sunlight and it ruins the character of the neighborhood."
The movement to restrict the development of McMansions started several years ago in Beverly Grove, where more than 60 new homes fitting that characterization went in, angering neighbors who had smaller homes, Koretz said.
The City Council decision was inspired by the community, he said. When drafting and approving the amendments, the council took into account emails from residents concerned about McMansions, he said.
"Please support us and our neighbors who all feel that our quality of life in the hills really depends upon doing something about the overpowering massive developments by flippers and developers who only care about maximizing square footage for profit," wrote Emily Boyle and Jon Biddle of Los Angeles in an email to City Council.
Other residents asked for restrictions on front-facing garages, which can take up several hundred extra square feet, Koretz said.
"Excluding attached garages from floor space is like weighing yourself with one foot off the scale," Koretz said one resident told him.
But garage square footage wasn't included in the new amendments, he said, which would likely continue to be a debate topic between neighbors.
The amendments passed by the council will head to Mayor Eric Garcetti's desk for a final signature this week, and will go into effect in late March.

CBS Los Angeles

LA Council Approves Limits On McMansions

The Los Angeles City Council Wednesday approved amendments to an ordinance that further limits the size of so-called "McMansions."
In a 12-0 vote, the council approved an update to the city's Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, applying to single-family homes on lots that are less than 7,500 square feet. Such properties are currently allowed to have floor areas that are 50 percent of the lot size, but under the amendment will be reduced to 45 percent.
"Every street has one now," Westwood resident Steve Rogers said. "We have four of these boxes on our street right now. In one case, there are two. One on either side of a little Spanish 1,500 square-foot house."
"It's extreme, it's not a small problem it's a big, big thing."
The council also unanimously approved an amendment that creates incentives for building detached garages or placing garages in the rear of a home by exempting them for the first 400 square feet from the size of the home, while

garages that are attached at the side will have a 200-square-foot exemption.
It also approved the Baseline Hillside Ordinance, which puts limits on homes built on hillsides. The amendments still require the signature of Mayor Eric Garcetti.
Some property owners like the amendments, but don't want to limit their options.
"We don't want mansions in our neighborhoods, but I think that we wanted to have a little bit more leniency, but we're OK with what happened," Beverlywood resident Lauren Gans said.
"Tons and tons of requirements," Gans added. "It'll be interesting to see what happens when the people start submitting plans and how they're going to get approved and how that's going to work."
Homes that are bigger than typically built in a neighborhood, or that dominate the footprint of the property they are located on, often referred to as McMansions, were limited in the original Baseline Mansionization Ordinance that passed in 2008. But the measure fell "far short of its mandate to create regulations that allow for sustainable neighborhoods and that protect the interest of all homeowners," L.A. City Councilor Paul Koretz wrote in the motion creating the amendments.
Some people are worried, however.
"Realtors and developers think it's bad for business," Rogers said.
"We paid a lot of money for our property in L.A. and we need to make sure we protect our property rights and get the increased value that we're entitled to based on making an investment in our home," Gans said.

Daily News

LA City Council approves amendments limiting size of McMansions

By City News Service
The Los Angeles City Council Wednesday approved amendments to an ordinance that further limits the size of so-called "McMansions."
In a 12-0 vote, the council approved an update to the city's Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, applying to single-family homes on lots that are less than 7,500 square feet. Such properties are currently allowed to have floor areas that are 50 percent of the lot size, but under the amendment will be reduced to 45 percent.
The council also unanimously approved an amendment that creates incentives for building detached garages or placing garages in the rear of a home by exempting them for the first 400 square feet from the size of the home, while garages that are attached at the side will have a 200-square-foot exemption.
The council also voted to put new limits on homes built on hillsides.
"We've been working on this issue for years. This is an exciting day. We have finally passed our Baseline Mansionization Ordinance and Baseline Hillside Ordinance," Koretz told City News Service. "They are considerably stronger than they were. I think this will be an end to giant boxy homes that tower over their neighbors."
The amendments still require the signature of Mayor Eric Garcetti, but he is expected to sign them, Koretz said.
Homes that are bigger than typically built in a neighborhood or dominate the footprint of the property they are located on -- often referred to as McMansions -- were limited in the original Baseline Mansionization Ordinance that passed in 2008. But the measure fell "far short of its mandate to create regulations that allow for sustainable neighborhoods and that protect the interest of all homeowners," Koretz wrote in the motion creating the amendments.

Daily News

In LA's Council District 7 race, no one's running away with this

By Elizabeth Chou
The 7th District Los Angeles City Council election in the northeast San Fernando Valley could be shaping up into an unpredictable race, with many of the 20 candidates campaigning with gusto, whether they are operating on shoestring budgets or spending from war chests large enough to fill voters' mailboxes with frequent campaign fliers.
The variety and number of candidates — who as a group have raised more than $785,000 in campaign donations, topping most other council races — means that many observers are not putting much money on an outright winner in the March 7 primary.
Rather, a runoff is a widely expected scenario in which the top two vote-getters, neither receiving more than 50 percent of the vote, would square off in the May general election.
"I don't see anyone running away with this like four years ago, when (Felipe) Fuentes came in and he was the established person," said Kevin Davis, president of the Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council.
Instead, support is all over the place, with "different candidates ... appealing to different groups," Davis said.
The candidates are seeking to fill a seat that was left empty by Fuentes, who stepped down midterm in September to take a job as a lobbyist in Sacramento.
The winner will represent the communities of Sunland-Tujunga, Pacoima, Sylmar, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills and North Hills in a district that offers an intermingling of typical San Fernando Valley suburban neighborhoods and rural communities in proximity to the Angeles National Forest.
Many of the candidates have zeroed in on the proposed high-speed-rail route, which would run through horse-riding country in their district and has fired up much of the electorate in the 7th District. Most, if not all, of the candidates have stated some form of opposition to the bullet train plans, whether it is to an above-ground proposal or to any route at all.
Other major issues that have caught on in the race include homelessness, real estate development that may increase the density of neighborhoods, the lack of name-brand retail shops and stores in some parts of the district, and the

availability of firefighting resources in areas that are affected by forest fires.
Candidates with big funding, major endorsements and the backing of labor unions are expected to have a natural advantage on Tuesday, which is anticipated to have low voter turnout based on past elections held at the same time.
Candidates with these advantages include Mission Hills resident Monica Rodriguez, who has reported raising more than $329,000.
A former public works commissioner, Rodriguez has been endorsed by Mayor Eric Garcetti and most members of the City Council and has the support of the police, firefighter and other labor unions.
Rodriguez has also received $100,000 in matching city funds and benefited from an extra $214,000 in independent expenditure donations that were reported on the Ethics Commission website over the past three weeks..
Karo Torossian, of Sunland-Tujunga, follows behind Rodriguez in fundraising, reporting more than $231,000 in donations. He has also received more than $77,000 in city matching funds. The City Council planning director was also endorsed by his boss, Councilman Paul Krekorian, and has long been active in San Fernando Valley-area Democratic Party organizations.
Sunland resident Monica Ratliff, a Los Angeles Unified School District board member and school teacher, is the third best-funded in the 7th District race, having raised more than $56,000. Ratliff has overcome better-funded candidates in the past, having beaten out an opponent in the school board race who was endorsed by then-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and benefited from an additional $2 million in independent expenditures.
While some candidates' connections to the political world are seen as strengths, these qualities have nevertheless been painted throughout the race as liabilities. Some of the candidates have railed, in particular, against Rodriguez — despite the fact that she grew up in the northeast Valley — due to her ties with City Hall leadership, often referring to the perception that past council members with such connections frequently left the district to seek higher office.
Stuntman Dale Gibson, who has reported raising more than $15,000, decried the mayor's endorsement of Rodriguez earlier this year as an "insider" move.
"Political insiders will always take care of other political insiders," Gibson said, adding that by contrast, he is a "local cowboy trying to help here in my area."
Other candidates who lack traditional political advantages say they are tapping into their roots within the district, particularly around the hot-button issue of high-speed rail.
Nicole Chase, a ranch owner and Boys & Girls Club development director who reported raising more than $13,000, said there was good turnout for her recent "Cabalgata," or cavalcade, campaign event, in which she rallied together disparate equestrian groups, including a Latino "charros" organization. She said she wanted to send the equestrians, who oppose the high-speed rail project and want better maintenance of horse-riding trails, the message: "Imagine how much more powerful we will be united!"
Attendance by candidates at forums has also been healthy, with most of those running turning out for one held in Sunland-Tujunga and another in Lake View Terrace in February.
For a forum at Mission College scheduled on Friday, all but one of the candidates are confirmed, according to Ann Job, a member of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council, which organized the event.
"They're on the ground, these 20," said Job, who views the large field of candidates as an opportunity to increase voter engagement.
"If all 20 of them could really get people to come out and support them, then we would have a lot of people voting," Job said. "Wouldn't that make sense?"
Some of the other lesser-known candidates, who have raised funds in the thousands to tens of thousands of dollars, include pub owner and engineer Arthur Miner; state Deputy Attorney General Venessa Martinez; community organizer and former council field deputy Olga Ayala; financial adviser and neighborhood council member Terrence Gomes; veterans advocate Fred Flores; equestrian center owner John T. Higginson; lender mortgage subservicer Constance Saunders; and public interest advocate Mike Schaefer.
Candidates who have not reported fundraising amounts include actress and Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council President Krystee Clark; Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council member David Barron; state government employee Franki Becerra; real estate broker Jose Castillo; bookkeeper Bonnie Corwin; former Sylmar Neighborhood Council member Carlos Lara; and rancher and Realtor Mark Reed.
Some speculate that even if Rodriguez meets expectations based on the heft of her campaign finances and endorsements, the No. 2 spot in the runoff might still be up for grabs.
Juan Salas, a member of the Pacoima Neighborhood Council, was among the 30 people who initially lined up to run for the 7th District seat, but he later dropped his bid.
Salas said the vast number of candidates could dilute efforts to take on the better-connected and well-funded candidates.
He said he feels "there isn't someone like Bernie (Sanders), who went from an unknown to almost beating Hillary (Clinton)" in the race and who "has really stood out with any momentum."
Much has been made about the unusually large number of candidates, but "there really isn't much excitement" in his own community in Pacoima about going to the polls to choose their next council person, Salas said.
"It's like getting a haircut," he said. "You just do it."

By Sheila Lane

At a time when Angelenos are debating the merits of Measure S, weighing the pros and cons of historic preservation and reeling over reports that suggest corruption in the city approvals of some developments, the role of the Los Angeles Planning Commission has come under the microscope.

The nine-member board, which is appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council, is a powerful stop along the way to a developer getting a project approved or denied. So too, does the commission's president, currently David Ambroz, wield a lot of influence, not immune to controversy.

Recently, when historic status was up for a vote for the Miracle Mile area, one commissioner was absent. An initial 4-4 vote on the controversial proposal automatically meant it was dead.

Ambroz, who was in favor of the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) proposal with boundary changes, however, asked for a second vote in the hope of breaking the tie.

According to Ambroz, he felt the issue was deeply important to those on both sides and deserved a second vetting. Postponing the vote, he also said, until all commissioners were present could have been too late, he said.

"If I continued [the vote] for another month," said Ambroz "there might have been bulldozers there in March."

On the second go-around, one commissioner changed her mind and the proposal was approved. The resulting change of fortune for the HPOZ confounded those against it. They lodged a complaint against Ambroz's action soon thereafter. But according to a spokesperson with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, the commission's actions were "legitimate."

Samantha Millman, a commissioner on the board who said Ambroz is "incredibly diplomatic," said she believes his decision reflected what he thought was the right thing to do.

"When a motion fails, you always want to reintroduce the motion so that we take some sort of action," she said. "So I think that was him trying to make sure that one way or another we moved forward with an action rather than a failure to act on the matter."

Ambroz, who is in his late 30s, was appointed to the commission in 2013 by Mayor Eric Garcetti. His term ends in 2021. He currently lives with his husband in Hollywood and has a foster son attending college.

When not volunteering 10 to 20 hours a week on Planning Commission business, Ambroz works full-time as Executive Director of Corporate Citizenship & Social Responsibility for the Disney/ABC Television Group.

He previously spent a decade on neighborhood councils and has consistently worked over the years with non-profits that have a focus on helping foster children. It's an issue with which Ambroz is intimately familiar.

As a child, Ambroz grew up homeless in New York City with his two siblings and a mentally ill mother.

"I lived in Grand Central Station," said Ambroz. "I had people step over me."

At age 11, he began an odyssey through various foster homes before winning a scholarship to Vassar. He went on to the UCLA School of Law where he received a juris doctorate.

Though he has no formal education in urban planning, according to Ambroz, his background informs his perspective on planning commission matters.

Along with issues such as upward mobility and equity, Ambroz said he is "constantly thinking of the homeless."

Ambroz said he believes he and his colleagues—who come from a range of backgrounds including architecture, finance, law, community activism, politics and real estate—share a common factor.

"What the [mayor and the city council] are looking for are broad-minded intelligent people with connections to the community and an understanding of how this all fits together and works," said Ambroz. "I think it's a diverse group, not just ethnically and by gender, but by experience."

Ambroz said the net effect is similar to having a jury of your peers in a court case.

"We are an independent group of nine people paid zero dollars to act in the best interest of Los Angeles," he said.

By the time proposals come before the commission, the Planning Dept. has already vetted them—a process that sometimes takes years. Ambroz, who said he has a "great respect " for department staff, said that the commission tries to examine the proposal from different angles.

"We go above and beyond the code," said Ambroz. "[We ask] [w]here's the council office on this? What's been the outreach?"

Ambroz said that input from the public is also critical.

"Every time a person carves time out of their day to come down or submit a letter, it impacts the way I think about a project," he said. "They usually provide neighborhood context or information that they live [because] they're adjacent to a project."

Ambroz's experience with planning issues has led him to be "profoundly" against Measure S.

"It's chopping off your arm because you have a hangnail," said Ambroz.

Ambroz said fixes to the city's planning and approval process can happen without "stopping L.A.'s economy, making people homeless and throwing people out of their jobs," issues those opposed to the measure have cited.

Over his tenure, Ambroz said he has observed the anger that can erupt between neighbors fighting over land use issues.

"I wish neighbors were kinder to each other," said Ambroz, "and assume that each of them have the best intentions."

LA Times

LA keeps building near freeways, even though living there makes people sick

By Tony Barbosa

For more than a decade, California air quality officials have warned against building homes within 500 feet of freeways. And with good reason: People there suffer higher rates of asthma, heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer and pre-term births. Recent research has added more health risks to the list, including childhood obesity, autism and dementia.
Yet Southern California civic officials have flouted those warnings, allowing a surge in home building near traffic pollution, according to a Los Angeles Times analysis of U.S. Census data, building permits and other government records.
In Los Angeles alone officials have approved thousands of new homes within 1,000 feet of a freeway — even as it advised developers that this distance poses health concerns.
The city issued building permits for 4,300 homes near freeways in 2015 — more than in any year over the last decade — and signed off on an additional 3,000 units last year.
Public funds, including millions of dollars from California's cap-and-trade program to cut greenhouse gas emissions, are going to developers to build new homes in freeway pollution hot spots.
The population near Los Angeles freeways is growing faster than elsewhere in the city as planners push developers to concentrate new housing near transportation hubs, convinced that increasing urban density will help meet state targets for greenhouse gas reductions.
More than 1.2 million people already live in high-pollution zones within 500 feet of a Southern California freeway, with more moving in every day. Between 2000 and 2010 — the most recent period available — the population within 500 feet of a Los Angeles freeway grew 3.9%, compared with a rate of 2.6% citywide.
Los Angeles City Councilman José Huizar, who lives several hundred feet from Interstate 5, said freeway pollution is such an urgent and complex problem that he wants the city to establish buffer zones. He called for a "comprehensive, citywide study of development near freeways that would analyze all impacts of limiting development around freeways."
Other elected officials and business groups argue that Los Angeles is so thoroughly crisscrossed by freeways that restricting growth near them is impractical and would hamper efforts to ease a severe housing shortage. In some cases, city officials are paving the way by re-zoning industrial land along freeways and other transportation corridors.
In an interview at a recent groundbreaking for a freeway-adjacent apartment project, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said that he grew up near the 101 and 405 freeways and that many in his family had cancer.
Mayor Eric Garcetti attends a groundbreaking ceremony for a 160-unit affordable apartment project next to the 110 Freeway in South Los Angeles. View more photos
But he said he opposes any restrictions on how many homes can be built near freeways and thinks that improving air-filtration, building design and tailpipe emissions are a better way to reduce risks to residents.
"I take this stuff very seriously, but I also know that in looking for housing we have a very constricted city," he said.
Garcetti spokesman Carl Marziali noted that a prohibition on building within 1,000 feet of freeways, for example, would cover more than 10% of land currently zoned for residential construction in the city, from Westwood to Boyle Heights and San Pedro to Sherman Oaks. But proponents of stricter planning, including supporters of Measure S, a proposal on the March 7 ballot that would place new restrictions on development, have criticized city officials for approving what they term "black lung lofts."
How close to the freeway are you?
Low rent and a location near shops and restaurants are what brought Jeremiah Caleb to an apartment on Beloit Avenue, where a sound wall is all that separates the 405 freeway from sleek new apartments and lofts advertising "good living."
But life got worse for Jeremiah and his wife Angel soon after moving into that one-bedroom on the Westside of Los Angeles.
The couple began to struggle with bouts of coughing, sneezing and headaches. They kept the windows shut, yet a grimy, black film settled regularly over the furniture, counters and even their skin — a never-ending reminder of the vehicle exhaust and soot they were breathing just 100 feet from 14 lanes of traffic.
"We were constantly sick," said Caleb, an actor in his 30s. The couple worried enough about dirty air that they put off having children. "We were desperate to leave, but we felt stuck. We just couldn't afford it."
Business groups have consistently opposed any suggestion of restricting development near heavy traffic.
"Freeways are part of Los Angeles' fabric and prohibiting housing by them is unrealistic," said Carol Schatz, president of the Downtown Center Business Improvement District. She argues that such restrictions would worsen the housing crisis and severely limit the ability to build housing near mass transit.
The Southern California Assn. of Governments, the regional planning agency for Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial counties, has projected that the population within 500 feet of a freeway will increase by a quarter million people by 2035.
Rob McConnell, a professor of preventive medicine at USC who studies roadway pollution, is one of a number of health researchers who has advised city officials not to allow new housing that close to freeways.
"I tell them you're going to make a lot of people sick," McConnell said.
But pinpointing the harmful agents in traffic pollution is difficult because it's a stew of ingredients including toxic combustion gases, microscopic soot particles, compounds from worn tires and dust from vehicle brake pads. Recent research has narrowed in on one component of special concern: ultra-fine particles, pollutants in freshly emitted vehicle exhaust that can be five to 10 times higher near traffic.
The invisible, chemical-laden specks are less than one-thousandth the width of a human hair — so tiny they are hard to capture with pollution controls or filters. Scientists suspect ultra-fine particles are able to pass through the lungs and into the bloodstream, where they may harm the heart, brain and other organs. Yet they remain unregulated by state

and federal authorities.
That emerging science has raised concerns that decades of government regulations, aimed at curbing smog that builds up across vast urban areas, are not sufficiently tailored to the more localized problem of roadway pollution.
Two years ago, state environmental officials concluded that diesel soot and other carcinogens in vehicle exhaust pose nearly three times the cancer risk previously thought.
In a long-term study, USC researchers have for more than two decades measured the lung capacity of thousands of school children across Southern California. They found that children growing up near major roadways have higher rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, including deficits in lung function that can be permanent and lead to a lifetime of health problems.
Even in communities with cleaner air, such as Santa Maria near the Santa Barbara County coast, children living near traffic had the same lung function loss as those in Riverside and other smoggy inland areas, the scientists found.
Anthony Moretti, chairman of pediatrics at White Memorial Medical Center in Boyle Heights, said children who live close to freeways are among those who most frequently land in the emergency room struggling to breathe and in need of treatment for asthma and other respiratory diseases.
"These kids will come in four, five, six times over a six-month period, and clearly their environment is a factor," he said. "I feel for these families because they suffer an undue burden of illness simply because of where they live."
Dr. Anthony Moretti says children who live close to freeways are among those who most frequently arrive in the emergency room struggling to breathe and in need of inhalers and treatment for asthma and other respiratory diseases. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times) View more photos
Public health officials have long warned that traffic pollution can drift well over 1,000 feet from traffic — and more recent research suggests that it may waft more than a mile.
Yet it took lawsuits and a nationwide mandate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to force Southern California air quality officials to begin regularly measuring pollution near Southern California freeways in 2014.
The first readings confirmed that people near freeways breathe higher levels of the exhaust gases nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide. Then, in 2015, the South Coast Air Quality Management District detected the region's highest concentrations of fine particulate matter at a new monitoring station 30 feet from the 60 Freeway in Ontario. The findings added compelling evidence that traffic emissions are piling on top of regional smog, hitting people near freeways with a double dose of pollution.
To learn more about the problem, The Times conducted air quality testing at sites where new housing is planned near Los Angeles freeways.
In August and September of 2015, reporters collected air samples at several locations using portable pollution sensors that detect ultra-fine particles, the microscopic pollutants in vehicle exhaust. One set of air samples was taken next to stretches of the 110 and 5 freeways and another set was taken 1,500 to 1,800 feet from the freeways.
Source: TSI P-Trak Ultrafine Particle Counter 8525 recordings on Aug. 20, 2015 and Sept. 24, 2015. See the data
Pollution readings near the freeways were three to four times higher than in neighborhoods at a distance from traffic. Diesel trucks produced the most noticeable pollution, coughing out foul plumes of exhaust and soot that could be seen and smelled as pollution readings jumped.
Scientists at USC and the South Coast air district said the readings were consistent with their measurements near freeways.
One of the locations where reporters detected high pollution levels was next to a vacant lot along the 110 Freeway in South Los Angeles where two apartment buildings for low-income residents are being built.
The $55-million Meta Housing Corp. project, which will bring 160 new housing units to the busy traffic corridor, is partly funded with money from pollution permits sold under the state's cap-and-trade program, among other state and local government subsidies.
Among the most visible and controversial projects that have raised traffic pollution concerns in Los Angeles are developer Geoffrey H. Palmer's massive Italianate apartment complexes overlooking downtown freeways. He has built thousands of units and is planning more.
In interviews, current and past residents of Palmer's Orsini development, which hulks over the interchange of the 101 and 110 freeways, said they moved to the complex for its convenient downtown location. But many spoke of keeping windows closed to block noise and pollution, deploying house plants to soak up the bad air and constantly sweeping and dusting the fine black soot that seems to find its way onto every surface.
Felicia Gargani said her pet peeve was the grime that collected on her fourth-floor balcony that looked out over the freeway. "If you walk out there barefoot," she said, "your feet turn black."
Construction on the Orsini began more than a decade ago, before scientists grasped the extent of the health hazards of building so close to traffic.
In the years since, the South Coast air district has sent dozens of letters to cities sounding alarms about similarly risky home building proposals near freeways in Los Angeles and other communities across its four-county jurisdiction.
The air-quality agency reserved some of its strongest criticisms for developer M. David Paul's 325-unit Il Villaggio Toscano project proposed near the 405-101 interchange in Sherman Oaks, urging Los Angeles city planners in 2011 to "reconsider placing new housing immediately adjacent to one of the busiest freeway intersections in Southern California."
The city "is ignoring the abundant health science data that has come out over the past decade that demonstrates serious health consequences for those living near a freeway," the air district's Ian MacMillan wrote.
Motorists travel along the 101 Freeway in Hollywood. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times) View more photos Everett

Smith, a renter at the Orsini apartments, looks out from his balcony at rush hour traffic on the 101 and 110 freeway interchange in downtown Los Angeles. (Don Bartletti / Los Angeles Times)
The City Council approved the project unanimously in August 2013, with its backers pledging to use the highest-rated air filters.
Los Angeles officials now require all homes built near freeways to have air filtration systems that rate at least 13 on the industry's 16-point effectiveness scale.
California air regulators acknowledge that decades of strict vehicle emissions standards have slashed tailpipe emissions, and they say air quality along freeways will continue to improve as the state transitions to cleaner vehicles and fuels.
Health officials say that those mitigating steps are good, but that the only way to solve the problem is for city and county officials to stop residential building near freeways.
And that, say legal experts, is well within their authority.
Planning experts cite a number of possible approaches to the public health problem.
Cities could re-zone areas near heavy traffic to exclude new residential development or change their general plans to prohibit such uses, planning experts say. Officials could adopt ordinances or moratoriums on new residential development. Or they could strengthen building standards — as they have for seismic reasons — forcing developers to design buildings in a way that reduces residents' exposure to polluted air.
"If there's a political will to protect people from this type of development then cities certainly know how to use zoning to accomplish that," said James Kushner, an expert in land-use, development and urban planning at Southwestern Law School.
Thousands of homes approved near L.A. freeways
One of the only attempts at a ban on development occurred several years ago when the L.A. County Department of Public Health proposed language in the county's general plan to prohibit new housing within 500 feet of freeways, citing the adverse health effects. County planners ultimately rejected the idea.
The failure of such restrictions to gain traction has left some local officials wondering if the only way to keep cities from building more homes near freeways is through a state law.
One precedent is a 2003 law California passed rohibiting the construction of new public schools within 500 feet of freeways out of concern for children's health. But school districts have used exceptions in the law to keep building.
Meanwhile, the residential developments that are rising next to freeways continue to spread not just through the urban core, but across the region.
One of those new neighborhoods is Cedar Point, a subdivision of one and two-story houses in the San Bernardino County suburb of Chino. The development was built on land that had been re-zoned for housing in a special election paid for by a real estate company. It sits about 100 feet from the 60 Freeway.
More than 220,000 vehicles motor by each day on this major freight corridor, including some 27,000 big-rig trucks whose diesel engines cough out many times more harmful pollutants than cars.
In January 2015, the South Coast air district sent a letter to Chino officials warning that freeway pollutants would threaten the health of residents in the new homes.
A few months later, the building site swarmed with construction workers and heavy equipment.
Dennis Yates, former mayor of Chino who served more than 12 years on the region's air quality board, said that as mayor he encouraged the developer to put in higher-rated air filters, but acknowledged he "personally wouldn't live there."
Among those who did move into one of Cedar Point's four-bedroom houses was Mike Sanchez, his wife and two young daughters.
Buying so close to traffic was a difficult decision, he said, but "one of the sacrifices we made to get into a new home."
Back on the Westside of Los Angeles, Jeremiah Caleb, who spent years battling black road dust and illness while living in an apartment next to the 405, said he and his wife were relieved when she landed a nursing job — a second income that allowed them to move to a less-polluted neighborhood about a mile from any freeway.
Their health has improved, with their once-constant headaches and respiratory problems now a rarity.
"I can leave my doors open and I'm breathing fresh air all the time," he said. "We got lucky. But for most people . . . They're stuck because that's what they can afford."

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Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]> Sat, Apr 22, 2017 at 4:54 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[redacted]>, Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]>, Cecilia Cabello home <[redacted]>, Dina Chang <dina.chang@lacity.org>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penera@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Kelly Jones <kelly.jones@lacity.org>, Kenneth Lee <kenneth.lee.intern@lacity.org>, Lynette Amerian <[redacted]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Ramon Covarrubias <ramon.covarrubias@lacity.org>, Ricardo Vasquez <ricardo.vazquez@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[redacted]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Vance <[redacted]>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Los Angeles's Mayor Sounds Off On Trump, Housing And More (LINK ONLY)
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LA Times

Garcetti proposes boosting spending to reduce LA traffic deaths but advocates are pushing more more

By David Zahniser & Laura Nelson

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti secured one of his biggest accomplishments last year with passage of Measure M, the sales tax hike slated to deliver $120 billion for transportation projects over four decades.

That victory was achieved, in part, through the hard work of nonprofit groups and grass-roots activists who pushed for more investment in rail, buses and ways of making walking and bicycling safer. Now, some of those same advocates are voicing dismay over Garcetti's budget plan, saying it does too little to prevent traffic deaths.

Garcetti called this week for $16.6 million to go to the city's Vision Zero initiative, which seeks to end traffic fatalities on city streets by 2025.

Mayoral aides say that's a dramatic increase from this year's allocation of $3 million. But Jessica Meaney, who heads the transportation advocacy group Investing in Place, said the program will need twice as much money to begin seriously reducing the number of deaths on city streets.

"The promise of Measure M was to be able to get around the city with more options. But we need to make sure we can get around the city alive," said Meaney, who intends to press the council to put more money into Vision Zero.

City officials have been facing competing demands on how to divvy up what's expected to be an influx of state and local transportation money. Safe-streets advocates are pushing hard for Vision Zero, noting that 260 people were killed in traffic collisions in 2016, an increase of almost 43% over the prior year.
Others have been pushing for the city to start repairing the its most deteriorated streets, which have been ignored since the 2008 recession. Those roads — with a ranking of D and F from engineers — are by far the most expensive to fix, costing up to $500,000 for every mile of a street lane, city officials say.
Garcetti is seeking to spend $34 million on such streets in the coming fiscal year, reconstructing more than 60 lane-miles, said Matt Szabo, the mayor's deputy chief of staff. That strategy would simultaneously adress the need for repairs and street safety, he said.
The boulevards that receive repairs will be along the city's "high injury network" of dangerous streets, where 65% of pedestrian deaths occur. As those D and F streets are rebuilt, they will be upgraded with safety features planned under Vision Zero, such as enhanced crosswalks at intersections, Szabo said.
"The message [Garcetti's] intending to send with this proposal is that fixing our streets and making them safe are not exclusive of one another," Szabo said. "So we're increasing dramatically the budget for fixing our worst roads, and we're increasing fivefold the budget for Vision Zero."
Councilman Mike Bonin, a Garcetti ally who raised money for the Measure M campaign, disagrees with the mayor's approach on transportation spending. Filling potholes and reconstructing roads is not the strategy that will seriously reduce traffic deaths, said Bonin, who heads the council's Transportation Committee.
Bonin said he intends to rework the mayor's plan to send a greater share of transportation funds to Vision Zero.
"Our first year of Vision Zero was really, really underfunded, and the problem [of traffic deaths] actually got worse this year," he said. "So we really need to make a significant investment in this."
Vision Zero spells out an array of safety improvements, including painting more visible crosswalks and retiming traffic signals to give pedestrians more time to cross the street. More significant overhauls could include new medians and left-turn lanes or the removal of traffic lanes.
"To really reduce traffic fatalities, those physical improvements to change the street design are essential, and expensive," said Deborah Murphy, executive director of the pedestrian advocacy group Los Angeles Walks.
Murphy said she will press lawmakers to shift funds from the budget for D and F streets to Vision Zero. That issue has already divided some council members.
Bonin's committee voted 3 to 2 last month to recommend that three-fifths of Measure M's local funding go toward Vision Zero initiatives. Councilmen David Ryu and Paul Koretz dissented, saying a greater share of the funds should go to fixing D and F streets.
Some have pointed out that Measure M was specifically billed — both in mailers and on social media — as a way to fill potholes. Ryu, who favors Garcetti's transportation plan, said city leaders need to fulfill the commitment made during the Measure M campaign.
"It was very clear that constituents in my district overwhelmingly were asking for repairs of our streets," said Ryu, who represents neighborhoods from Silver Lake to Sherman Oaks. "I think it's very important that we rebuild trust, and the way you do that is by fulfilling those promises."
Even if Garcetti's budget is approved unchanged, the city will still have about 6,400 lane-miles of D and F streets, said Szabo, the mayoral aide.
The challenge for Vision Zero is similarly steep. The head of the city's Department of Transportation said last month it could take as much as $80 million to achieve a 20% reduction in fatal and severe crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists.
Tamika Butler, executive director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, said the city could find other ways of securing more money for Vision Zero. One option, she said, would be to tap police and fire department funding.
"When you're looking at the important work these departments do, it's all about saving lives," Butler said. "Vision Zero is about saving lives, too."

LA Times

Next stop for LA Metro: A committee focusing on what it's like to be a rider

By Laura Nelson

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has seven committees of elected officials that debate issues as high-profile as rail construction budgets, and as obscure as the amount of water needed to wash 2,248 buses.
What doesn't exist is a panel that focuses on what it's like to take transit in Los Angeles County.
That will change this summer, with a new directive from Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who is also a Metro director. During his State of the City address Thursday, Garcetti announced the committee, saying taking Metro "shouldn't be a burden — it should be a convenience."
"Positively or negatively, every single thing Metro does affects the passenger experience," said Los Angeles City Councilman and Metro director Mike Bonin, who will run the group. "But it's not often the primary prism through which a decision is made."
Garcetti will begin his second term as Metro chair in July. The committee will start meeting after that. Here's what they may discuss:
Later this year, Metro will start receiving revenue from Measure M, a sales tax increase for transportation that county voters approved last year. The tax is expected to generate $860 million in 2018, and more than $120 billion over its first

four decades.
More than half of that revenue is already earmarked for highway projects and new bus and rail lines that will dramatically expand the size of the region's transit network.
An additional 27% of the revenue — or $232 million, in 2018 — will go toward transit service, which could influence the number of buses and trains, and how often they run. An additional 2% will be spent on improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.
The committee could weigh in to make sure sure that county voters' multibillion-dollar investment is as user-friendly as possible, Bonin said.
More than three-quarters of Metro riders do not have access to a car. A key goal of the committee will be making transit service cleaner, safer and more reliable for those transit-dependent passengers.
Service complaints are one reason Metro ridership has fallen in recent years.
In a Metro survey of more than 2,000 former passengers, more than six in 10 respondents said they stopped taking transit because it was slow, infrequent, unreliable or difficult to access.
Twenty-nine percent stopped riding because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable.
The committee will also focus on making transit feel more comfortable, including nudging cities to add more bus shelters (or upgrade the ones they already have) and to improve sidewalks and bike lanes near stations, Bonin said.
Attracting new customers
When it comes to commuting, driving still dominates Los Angeles County. More than four in five residents get to work in the car, while 7% take a bus or train, according to census data.
Metro chief executive Phil Washington has said he wants to triple the rate of transit riders. That ambitious goal will require attracting and retaining new customers at a much faster rate than the population grows.
Bonin said the committee will explore ways to boost ridership, noting that "there's still a lot that we don't know about why people with the option of using transit don't choose transit."
"I want it to be very much about feedback, and input," Bonin said. "I don't want that to mean people have to come down to MTA headquarters. I want to get creative about how we hear from people."
One idea, he said, would be to hold some meetings at rush hour at a transit station.
That strategy could address one common criticism of Metro's public process: Monthly meetings start at 9 a.m., and are always downtown, meaning many working people can't attend.
What do you think?
If you're a Metro rider, what improvements do you want to see during your commute?
If you don't take transit, why not? What would make you change your mind?
Explain in the comments section, or reach out to transportation reporter Laura Nelson on Twitter or via email.

KPCC

LA City Hall braces for retirement wave

By Andrew Bernstein
It's a statistic they've known for a while now, but it's inching ever closer: More than 40 percent of the city of L.A.'s 45,000 employees will become eligible for retirement by 2018.
The wave of retirement is mostly due to an aging workforce, something that's happening all across the country, said Dr. Fernando Guerra, who runs the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University (and is a member of KPCC's Board of Trustees).
"We're seeing the tail end of the Baby Boomers," Guerra said, explaining that some of the city's retirement-eligible workers have been eligible for years but have continued working because they expect to live longer and need to save more money.
"The Great Recession and the cost of living forces many people who would want to retire but have to keep working to make sure that they have the right retirement or resources to keep their quality of life," he said.
City workers are retirement eligible when they reach age 55 and have 30 years on the job. But most employees don't retire when they hit the 30-year mark, said Raul Lemus, assistant general manager of the city's personnel department.
The city does not know how many of the 18,000+ city employees who will be eligible to retire in 2018 will do so, but officials are preparing nonetheless, and have been for several years.
In 2015, the city began to address potential labor shortages when the city council and Mayor Eric Garcetti set the goal of hiring 5,000 city employees by 2018.
In a statement, Garcetti's office called that "a goal we are ahead of schedule to meet." City leaders have considered expanding parental leave benefits to attract applicants. And each city department has created a "succession plan" to prepare for potential holes in the office.
"By rearranging the work, or by preparing their current staff to move up through the ranks, and what kind of outreach they may request the personnel department to conduct to fill the jobs they're projecting they'll need to fill in the future," Lemus said. "[We're] looking at different ways we can attract new blood into the city."
The city is using social media to find job seekers, and it's created a recruitment campaign, dubbed "Create the Future of L.A." to appeal to 20- and 30-somethings. Lemus said the city worked with a consultant to tailor a message to millenials, highlighting the impact of public service.
"We're letting people know that the work here, it's going to have meaning," he said. "There's going to be an impact on your community when you work for the city."

The city is also preparing to launch a pilot program to expand the applicant pool. Currently, job seekers must take the city's entrance exam at City Hall. The pilot program would allow them to test in more convenient locations, including online.

Guerra said the public sector can struggle to compete with the private sector on salary, especially in Los Angeles, with its higher cost of living. However, he said, city jobs come with generous pensions not offered by the private sector. "If you have an employee that thinks long-term and understands that, that is a competitive advantage that the city of Los Angeles has," he said.

Curbed

Los Angeles State Historic Park: Here's a preview of DTLA's grassy new backyard

By Alissa Walker

For over three years, Angelenos have anxiously awaited the reopening of Los Angeles State Historic Park, an expansive 34-acre park in Chinatown, at the edge of Downtown. Tomorrow is the day—it will reopen even bigger, prettier, and grassier than before.

Although the parklands, which everyone will probably still call the Cornfield, were technically transferred into the hands of California State Parks in 2001, the park remained suspended in a kind of temporary limbo state for over a dozen years. In 2014, the park closed while a $20 million renovation sculpted new paths, picnic areas, wetlands, and a stunning pedestrian walkway. Two permanent structures, a ranger station and a welcome center, with new, very handsome bathrooms, were also added.

The park will reopen April 22 with a full day of events starting at 10 a.m., including remarks from Mayor Eric Garcetti and Governor Jerry Brown, but we got to take a tour today—check out our video preview on Facebook.

As you enter the park from the south (just steps from the Chinatown Gold Line station), you'll encounter a lovely new entrance lined with historic cobblestones that date to the 1880s.

Some are in their original positions and others were discovered while excavating the park grounds. They made up the roads serving LA's first rail depot, which occupied this site until 1901.

The first thing you'll likely notice on what's forecasted to be a hot, sunny weekend is the lack of shade. There are plenty of trees planted in the park, including a charming public fruit orchard of citrus trees planted by Fallen Fruit, but they're still fairly small. The new structures provide some shelter, but, for now, it may be best to plan your visits to avoid the hottest hours of the day, at least in summer.

The two buildings were designed in-house by California State Parks and have nifty sustainability features. The concave roofs act like rainwater catchment systems, sending water over the edge to be collected into rock-covered cisterns in the ground that flow into a nearby arroyo. As Stephanie Campbell, a park and recreation specialist for California State Parks told Curbed, during the last storms, rain cascaded over the roof in waterfalls and turned the arroyo into a full-on creek.

For the best views—and to get the only true sense of how big this space is—climb the pedestrian walkway, which is situated over the former rail depot's roundhouse, located in the center of the park, to gaze at grassy knolls dotted with bright-orange poppies. This walkway doesn't connect to Broadway, which runs along the western side of the park, but it was designed in a way to anticipate this move when more funds are available.

On the programming side, expect fewer concerts and festivals in the park and more cultural events. The park's extensive outreach program—formed out of a stunning 65 community meetings—created a local park ambassadors group named the Promotoras. This team will shape the programming and educational events, including the interpretive history exhibitions about the site and the neighborhood that will open soon at the welcome center, according to Marissa Llanes of Community Nature Connection.

Perhaps the most exciting addition to the neighborhood is not yet installed—a restaurant will be landing in the park by June. It's being fabricated off-site right now using shipping containers. The restaurant will be located in the southern corner of the park and, yes, it will have drinks, so expect to be spending your summer evenings here in the beer garden, gazing at the Los Angeles skyline.

LAist

Return To Eden: How LA State Historic Park Came To Be

By Richard Bence

The transformation of a zeppelin-shaped plot of land that stretches from Chinatown to the L.A. River's edge started with a trickle back in 2001 when California State Parks bought the property to create a temporary park. Tomorrow, that trickle turns into an almighty flood when the Los Angeles State Historic Park makes its long-awaited debut.

Many will already know this tucked-away, 32-acre parcel of green space as "the Cornfield", so named for the stalks that grew from kernels dropped by passing rail cars. In 2005, when it officially became a State Park, artist Lauren Bon paid homage by sowing an on-site crop and calling it Not a Cornfield. A version of the park then opened in 2006, hosting various music festivals before the economic downturn put a wrench in the works and froze funds for three years.

But, according to Tom Carroll of Tom Explores LA, this park and its surroundings are the cradle that Los Angeles grew out of. Water has always played a starring role in the story of L.A. and nowhere more so than here, a strip of land next to where the Los Angeles and Arroyo Seco rivers meet at a geographical knickpoint at the end of the Santa Monica Mountains. Native American people bathed here for thousands of years before the Spanish arrived and decided to build a ditch, the zanja madre, to move water from the Los Angeles River to the center of the pueblo. There are still

remnants of the "mother ditch" here today, connecting the park to a riparian past that became the blueprint for modern Los Angeles.

In the 1870's, L.A. passed a bond measure that gave this chunk of land to the Southern Pacific Railroad. When River Station—the city's first transcontinental railroad depot—opened in 1875, it catapulted L.A. from a frontier town to the second largest metropolis in the United States. Some historians refer to the station as the Ellis Island of Los Angeles. This is where transplants from the Midwest and the East, lured by boosterism at the turn of the century, first set foot on Southern California soil. In 1902 the River Station switched to transporting freight instead of people; by 1992 the train yard had closed and morphed into a weed-strewn eyesore, reports Carroll.

Los Angeles State Historic Park has harnessed much of that early pioneering spirit; not least in the way park entities approach a project. "We decided to leave no stone unturned in our attempt to reach out and build a park with the community rather than for the community," says Sean Woods, the superintendent of California State Parks in Los Angeles, who has helmed the project since 2001.

"We want this park to be many firsts," says Woods. "For the opening festival we are making sure we have representation from as many of the cultural and ethnic groups in Los Angeles as we possibly can. That's the city's strength," adds Woods. To have a place that becomes a cultural gathering space where people can come together for a common purpose seems to chime with the times. "I think the park will take on a much deeper meaning rather than just a beautiful piece of land," says Woods.

The grand opening will not shy away from the immutable facts of history either. "It's really important for us to keep that at the forefront of what this park is about: a place in Los Angeles where we can tell the history of the city, warts and all, and really have a place of healing," explains Woods. "Why not have a place to talk about the Zoot Suit Riots, the Chinese Massacre, the eviction of the Mexicans from the Chavez Ravine, so we can learn from history and move forward?" he asks.

To create something beautiful for some of the most underserved communities in the heart of the nation's most park-poor city has always been at the core of the project's civic mission. For Woods, however, the park signifies a paradigm shift in terms of reaching out to urban communities to get them involved with public space. "Parks are not just places to run and recreate, they're the lungs of our planet. It's incumbent upon us to educate people to the full scope of the value of parks," says Woods.

To that end, subtle educational elements are embedded into the landscape and architecture of the site by using plant materials to tell the stories about California's botanical past and what we think of as L.A. vernacular. The citrus industry, for example, became the first to use advertising to promote the image of California as the land of opportunity and sunshine. The orange became the perfect symbol for the sun and the Golden State. And so the orange trees here today, planted by public art project Fallen Fruit, explore the social and political implications of the citrus boom. "By having interpreters we can educate you to the value of that and provide all these layers of experience," says Woods.

The park is divided in three zones. The first is a habitat zone, which will eventually connect to the L.A. River, filled with 3,000 plants (planted by community members). The second zone is the great lawn, which has a capacity of 15,000. "There is no place in Los Angeles that has this quantity of open space," says Woods. A third zone focuses more on the cultural interpretive elements of the site. At its center, a crescent-shaped observation deck (with instagrammable views of the city's skyline) arcs around the footprint of the roundhouse, where, Los Angeles Magazine reports, locomotives were serviced when Southern Pacific's River Station stood there in the late 1800s. A natural amphitheater will ring the granite turntable that redirected locomotives. For the grand opening, this area will be transformed into a big fire pit with marshmallows and s'mores for the kids.

It's important for any launch to sustain interest after the pizzazz of the opening celebration fades away; the arrival of a shipping container restaurant called Cargo and an outdoor screening of La La Land in May will no doubt keep the crowds coming back. Meanwhile the Annenberg Water Wheel Project, which will enable the park to be fully supplied by L.A. River water, will also be breaking ground this year.

Best of all, the park is easily accessible by the Chinatown Gold Line station, a reminder that this is a dynamic moment for Los Angeles as it reinvents itself again by reclaiming its public transit past. Bold projects like Los Angeles State Historic Park demonstrate the might of grassroots activism. People from disenfranchised communities got together and formed a coalition to fight for environmental justice. "This is the beginning of a movement and there has to be many Los Angeles State Parks built all along the L.A. River," says Woods. "This is a success; let's build upon that success."

KCET

The Positive Actions New Restaurants Can Take In Gentrifying Neighborhoods

By Jean Trinh

It's undeniable that the Los Angeles restaurant scene is booming, so much so that it's sometimes hard keeping up with the slew of hot new restaurants opening in the next "up-and-coming" neighborhoods. There's a growing market for food, as well as an entrepreneurial drive that's galvanizing restaurateurs to open up shop in any way they can, including launching in neighborhoods with cheap rents that are at risk or in the midst of gentrification. But can restaurant owners do good for a neighborhood that's in transition and help lessen the negative effects that come with that change? As we discussed this complex issue with restaurant owners, urban planning scholars and experts, we found that it is possible — if they do it right.

Existing community members may view new eateries as a threat, as drivers of gentrification, because restaurants are a very visible symbol of that change. However, when you look at the big picture, they are the byproduct of a

transformation that already started long ago.

Before we jump into how restaurateurs can positively contribute to communities, it's important to first understand the role they play in transitioning neighborhoods. Existing community members may view new eateries as a threat, as drivers of gentrification, because restaurants are a very visible symbol of that change. However, when you look at the big picture, they are the byproduct of a transformation that already started long ago, according to Maria Cabildo, a longtime affordable housing advocate who is currently running for a seat in Congress. "I don't think that restaurants in and of themselves drive gentrification," she says. "They're something that follows after there's already been some kind of shift in the rental and homeownership market in the neighborhoods." Gilda Haas, an urban planner and adjunct professor of economic development at Antioch University, is on the same page as Cabildo."They are more like indicators that it has already happened, that the area can command higher rents, [and] that new people are moving in who have a need or desire for expensive coffee or toast," Haas says.

That doesn't mean that these restaurants don't play a role at all in the transformation of a community. Cabildo believes that they do contribute to establishing a new marketplace and creating a different brand for the neighborhood, but again they're not one of the driving factors of the transition. She points out that there are times when a merchant is ahead of its time, that their business ends up being unsuccessful operating in a commercial corridor because they're trying to attract a certain type of clientele in a marketplace that doesn't exist yet in the neighborhood.

Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, an urban planning professor at UCLA, says she thinks it's unlikely that a restaurant will move into a neighborhood where nothing else is around, but rather is following other developments that are happening in the area. Loukaitou-Sideris, who is currently researching residential and commercial gentrification, is studying this in conjunction with how new transit stations affect communities. In her findings, she's noticed that gentrification happens most near transit stops, using the Metro Gold Line Chinatown station and Boyle Heights' Mariachi Plaza station as examples. Those are the areas where new residential and commercial developments are getting built, but don't quite fit in with the needs of the existing community.

Regardless of how strong of a role restaurants play in a transitioning community, they are still intertwined in the fabric of that neighborhood. In fitting in with an area that is in danger of displacement, merchants can bring about more positive changes and take proactive steps to help the community, like hiring locally, keeping prices affordable and really listening to the feedback of longtime residents.

When Cabildo was the president of East LA Community Corporation (ELACC), a nonprofit whose mission is advocating for economic and social justice in Boyle Heights and East L.A., the organization led the renovation of the historic Boyle Hotel landmark in Boyle Heights. It reopened in 2012 as a mixed-use development with affordable housing. ELACC cautiously went through a lengthy community engagement process to select La Monarca, a bakery chain that sells Mexican pastries and coffee, as the commercial tenant for Boyle Hotel. Cabildo says they wanted a business that really catered to the existing Boyle Heights residents, offering accessible price points and committing to hiring locally, which is what La Monarca did. ELACC members even took community residents out to visit La Monarca's other locations like in South Pasadena so they could get a feel for what the bakery was all about.

Cabildo feels La Monarca is fitting in nicely with the community. "You'll have people working at White Memorial Hospital, [which is a couple of blocks away from La Monarca], and people from the community going in and having a cup of coffee and some sweet bread," Cabildo says. "It's a great example of a business that is upscale but still caters to a local community and is accessible to them."

Longtime Boyle Heights resident Carlos Vasquez is a real estate agent who helped broker the lease deal with La Monarca. Even though La Monarca has nine locations throughout Southern California, Vasquez considers them to be local and not like chains. Vasquez says the cafe's owner had promised his wife, who's from Boyle Heights, that he would one day open a restaurant or cafe in the neighborhood. "They're very successful because they're catering to the needs of the community — the community that's already here," Vasquez says. "Even then, I see them as locals because the ownership is local."

In terms of culinary options for the neighborhood, Cabildo warns about making assumptions that everyone in the community is going to want Mexican food or sweet breads and coffee just because the residents of Boyle Heights are predominantly Latino. When ELACC surveyed the neighborhood, they found that there was a huge request for Chinese food in the area. "I think people are willing to try new things," she says.

Vasquez says if new restaurants do move into the neighborhood, he wants them to cater to the needs of the existing community, and also wants more parking in the area so that locals can actually be able to get to them. He doesn't want chain restaurants or hip bars to move in, and adds that not everyone wants a street taco. Vasquez uses existing restaurants like Un Solo Sol, Primera Taza Coffee House and La 1st Street Taqueria as examples of places that provide a service to the community by offering healthy alternatives to Latin cuisine and still having a "Mexican flair" to their food. He's also excited about a sports bar that is soon coming into the neighborhood and says, "It's pretty cool because we have somewhere to sit, somewhere to hang out."

On the other side of town in Mar Vista, things are changing for the community as well. As the tech industry is growing on the Westside in what's dubbed as "Silicon Beach" and housing is becoming unaffordable, residents are looking towards neighboring areas like Mar Vista. As a result, the neighborhood is transforming, and chef D. Brandon Walker, who opened his restaurant The Mar Vista on Venice Boulevard in January, is acutely aware of these changes and is listening to the community about its needs.

Walker has deep roots in the area. His restaurant partner and Co-Executive Chef Jill Davie, and his wife were both born and raised in the neighborhood. Walker and his wife own a house in the community and their three children have attended or are currently attending Mar Vista Elementary School. He says the neighborhood is very much still occupied

by mom-and-pop businesses, but there is a change in the vibe as it's started to cater more to the young professionals moving in.
He says his restaurant is part of the transition that is happening in Mar Vista and notes that "we're probably at the forefront of that." Walker adds that The Mar Vista is one the first of its kind in the neighborhood, one that is chef-driven and serves farm-to-table, global-inspired dishes. He mentions some of the newer restaurants that have moved into Mar Vista over the last few years like Louie's of Mar Vista and Little Fatty (formerly Status Kuo). The local bowling alley, Bowlero, reopened with a modern makeover, and more surf and skate shops that weren't in the area 10 or 20 years ago are now calling Mar Vista home. For the most part, the shops and restaurants are still independently owned, but to Walker's dismay, a Starbucks moved onto Venice Boulevard in 2014. "It's just a different feel, a different look," Walker says. "I think it's catering to the new generation, the new population of the neighborhood."
In the two years leading up to The Mar Vista's opening, Walker and his partners attended city council meetings, went door-to-door talking to neighboring businesses and residents about their plans to move in and asked for their feedback. He went to local schools including Mar Vista Elementary to speak to teachers and parents about The Mar Vista. In the school's classrooms, he held cooking demos and presentations teaching children about vegetables and healthy eating. It was a way for the team to test the waters. "I think if we hadn't gotten such positive responses, there was a good chance we wouldn't have gone forward with it," Walker says.
Walker's passion for operating a restaurant that serves and benefits the surrounding community has led to his concerted efforts to make The Mar Vista easily accessible to locals. In conjunction with Mayor Eric Garcetti's Great Streets Initiative — a program that focuses on improving L.A. corridors, including a stretch of Mar Vista's Venice Boulevard — Walker has been involved in having bike racks installed in front of his restaurant. He hopes that they can get a crosswalk with blinking lights put in so people can safely cross the main street.
"We were super involved [with this program] and the community was very knowledgeable about what was going on and I think that led to the anticipation for [The Mar Vista's] opening," Walker says.
The Mar Vista may still be in its infancy stage, but Walker has more plans to keep contributing to the community. He's currently leveling a huge plot of land that runs along his restaurant's retaining wall in the back of the building. He plans on building raised beds along it and inviting the community for planting parties. Walker wants to bring kids from the local Mar Vista Elementary and Grand View Boulevard Elementary on field trips to visit and plant in the community garden.

Real Deal

Doing it his way

By Subrina Hudson

The Grove offers the same skewed perception of reality as Disneyland. At both, you'll find manicured landscaping and polished walkways, music playing from hidden speakers and a collection of jaunty buildings designed to block out views of the grit and congestion outside.
While it may not share the famous moniker of "Happiest Place on Earth," the open-air shopping center is a top tourist attraction that was carefully crafted by its very image-conscious owner, the real estate developer Rick Caruso, who is attempting to reshape his public persona after a series of setbacks and controversies.
Caruso, whose current portfolio consists of 13 developments with three — Palisades Village, Miramar Beach Resort and 333 La Cienega — currently under construction, is cleaning up the fallout from his very public failed bid for a shopping center in Carlsbad. The project faced vocal community opposition and a crushing defeat in the voting booth last year. Add to that the explosive L.A. Times story, published in December 2016, revealing that Caruso and many of his associates had donated massive sums to city officials, allegedly in an effort to win approvals for his projects.
Whether or not that's true, the billionaire mogul does admit to his affinity for complex developments
"I'm only focused on projects that are complicated from an entitlement standpoint," Caruso told The Real Deal. "I want high barriers to entry because the more complicated it is, the higher the likelihood is that there'll be less competition."
Lewis Horne, CBRE's president of Southern California and Hawaii and a longtime friend of Caruso, said cutting through red tape is the hardest aspect of being a developer in L.A.
"The most complicated part is the entitlement process —your ability to get the approval from the community," Horne said. "Generally, people don't want a development. There's fighting by its nature."
Caruso, 58, is seen as a visionary for going against the traditional indoor mall-style retail development, instead creating open-air shopping centers with park-like spaces and up-and-coming retailers around paved walkways.
Before proposing one such open-air mall near the Agua Hedionda Lagoon in Carlsbad in May 2015, Caruso made attempts to win over community members.
Support from residents can allow a project to circumvent normal planning procedures, such as the costly California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, due to a loophole in a 2014 California Supreme Court ruling that allows the city to approve a project without a public vote or CEQA review if a citizens' initiative is successfully submitted.
Ballot-box planning in California is controversial. Historically, voters don't like to feel like they are being bought, as evidenced by Beny Alagem's failed $7 million campaign to get voters to approve a 26-story condo tower last year in Beverly Hills. Even before Caruso embarked on the campaign to convince voters that his shopping center would improve Carlsbad, newspaper op-eds throughout San Diego County begged him to just give up.
He did not. His team mailed out flyers, ran television ads and even hired multiple political consulting firms.
Caruso's proposed San Diego County shopping center called for retail, restaurants and a movie theater across 27

acres, with the remaining 176 acres preserved for open space. However, a portion of the parkland would include a farm-to-table restaurant and an existing family-owned strawberry field.
Residents supporting the upscale mall submitted signatures to Carlsbad City Council, which unanimously approved the project instead of sending it to a public vote. The prize was nearly within Caruso's grasp.
But the opposition group Citizens for North County squeezed in a referendum, which forced a public vote on the project. The neighborhood group did not return requests for comment.
Over the next 12 months, the battle with the group led Caruso to spend $12 million to rally support for the project, according to financial disclosure statements filed with the city.
Rival developer Westfield Corporation was keeping an eye on the fight. The mall operator owns several shopping centers in San Diego County and quickly entered the ring, donating $75,000 to Citizens for North County, which spent a total of $100,000.
Ultimately, voters shot down Caruso's Measure A in a special election on February 23, 2016.
Caruso said afterward that he had taken the initiative route to prevent Westfield from following through on its threats to sue the firm under CEQA. The Australian company had previously blocked Caruso's proposed $500 million project in Arcadia at the Santa Anita Park racetrack in 2011 using CEQA challenges.
Caruso had another reason to pursue the initiative route: If it had passed, he would have had more power over the project's land-use regulations, since the city would be unable to make any changes to the proposed project for 15 years.After the failed push in Carlsbad, Caruso explained what he felt went awry.
"What happened there is we didn't follow our formula," Caruso told The Real Deal. "It was an expensive and very painful reminder to stick to what works. We did a lot of things right, but we didn't do 100 percent of things right."
Shaking hands, kissing babies
The process of winning public support is the same nearly everywhere: A developer meets with city officials, holds meetings and coffee dates with local residents and mails out flyers before finally presenting the project for city approval. The impeccably polished and charming Caruso is adept at this.
But that song and dance didn't work in Carlsbad, nor did it work more than 10 years ago in the small Bay Area suburb of Albany. In 2005, Caruso pitched a $200 million waterfront development there similar to the Carlsbad plan. He eventually quashed the project in 2006 because city officials would not guarantee that the firm's development application could avoid a public vote if it cleared the initial hurdle of winning City Council approval. The site of the proposed development would have to be rezoned, and local law called for voter approval on projects requiring rezoning.
Many of the Caruso projects that have successfully moved forward were first met with dissension. Opponents point to Caruso's numerous campaign contributions to local officials as evidence of his efforts to stack the deck against grass-roots opposition. Media reports have only reinforced that viewpoint.
Los Angeles City Ethics Commission filings revealed in the L.A. Times' December 2016 piece showed that Caruso, his family and his employees collectively donated nearly half a million dollars to city officials in the last five years. More often than not, greasing squeaky wheels with a bit of cash seems to have paid off for Caruso.
Salud Carbajal, now a congressman, was one of four Santa Barbara County supervisors to approve Caruso's Miramar Beach Resort project in Montecito in 2015. Caruso and his wife, Tina, donated $15,000 in 2011 for Carbajal's reelection campaign for supervisor and $10,800 to his 2016 congressional campaign, according to the Santa Barbara Independent.
In L.A., the board of the Westbury Terrace condominium, located across the street from 333 La Cienega, Caruso's 16-story luxury residential tower, petitioned the neighborhood council over the building's initial proposed height of 20 stories, saying it would increase traffic and block views. Once Caruso promised to make $500,000 worth of improvements to Westbury's building, many petitioners reversed their complaint.
It's a move that might be viewed as deceptive, but many in the industry say that this brand of backscratching is just part of doing business.
Eric Sussman, professor at the UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate, said any developer would stress the importance of having a relationship with local council members.
"I think anyone who has half a cerebrum understands money is important to politics," Sussman said. "[Caruso] is very political. He's savvy [but] that landscape is changing as well."
Sussman says that Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's recent ban on planning commissioners meeting privately or communicating directly with developers regarding their plans could be in direct response to tactics employed by developers such as Caruso and Westfield. He added that it could impact the sustainability of Caruso's strategy.
But not every project is met with community pushback and tension.
Take, for example, Caruso's Pacific Palisades project, Palisades Village: The 116,000-square-foot project has been met with support from the city and neighborhood groups. It's expected to open in 2018 and will include a movie theater, a grocery store, retail and restaurants.
David Kaplan, chair of the Village Project Land Use Committee, said Caruso and his team met with community leaders and residents several times to answer questions and present information on the project.
"He's capable of having conversations with people and not becoming defensive, as many developers will, when they're presented with people who are saying, 'Well, not in my backyard,'" Kaplan said.
Caruso is an L.A. native who grew up in Beverly Hills. His father, Hank, got his start selling used cars and became a leading auto dealer by 35. But the elder Caruso and some associates were indicted for fraud, forgery and conspiracy in 1957. He initially pleaded not guilty but changed his plea at the behest of his attorney, who said he could avoid

prison time if he copped to the charges, according to Los Angeles Magazine. He was ultimately sentenced to one year in L.A. County Jail and 10 years of probation. Eventually he was allowed to change his plea back to not guilty after fulfilling his probation, and the charges were dismissed.
By that time, Hank Caruso had already sloughed off the damage from the scandal, launching a highly profitable business in 1966 renting out cars for a dollar a day plus mileage costs. The company, Dollar Rent a Car, became one of the largest auto rental companies, competing with firms such as Hertz and Avis.
Rick Caruso has said in previous interviews that his father's jail time was not something the family discussed, especially since Caruso was only a toddler when the case made headlines.
The younger Caruso attended Harvard Prep and graduated from University of Southern California with honors in 1980. Real estate was always the career Caruso wanted for himself, but he put it aside, graduating from Pepperdine Law in 1983 and joining law firm Finley Kumble. The mogul admits that while his father initially pushed him to study law, it ultimately helped him become a better developer.
"There was a certain discipline and a decorum," he said of Finley Kumble. "They didn't care about my social life. They didn't care about anything other than working."
Caruso added that if he had gone the traditional route of working for a development firm fresh out of college, he wouldn't have taken the risks he takes now.
"I would've never been able to build the Grove," he said. "Because nobody was building outdoor properties. Everything had to be an indoor mall anchored by aJC Penney's or Sears. So a great gift for me was my dad saying, 'You're going to law school.'"
The elder Caruso did help get his son's development career off the ground. When Rick Caruso launched Caruso Affiliated in 1987, he purchased land and leased it back to his father's company to expand his own company's business.
But the fortunate son would ultimately forge his own path. One of his first projects as a developer was a mall called Burton Place.
Of all the projects he has done over the years, Caruso said, this was the one that taught him the most about being a developer in Los Angeles.
"It was sort of a bag of everything," he said. "I had to get a street vacated. I had to get a zone change. I had to move trees. I had to do everything, and I knew nothing."
The company only had two employees at the time: Caruso and his assistant.
Thirty years on, the company enjoys consistent growth at a time when many mall operators are scrambling to fill large vacancies left by those once all-important retailers that are now closing thousands of shops across the country.
Caruso told TRD that his company compared its sales growth to its publicly traded competitors' this year, and while most grew at 2.5 percent, Caruso's firm grew more than 7 percent last year. The developer said the company had 100 percent occupancy at its properties. TRD could not independently confirm Caruso's assertions about the company's performance.
"Our sales growth is up, every metric of us was up over the year," he said. "We're the only company that did that, but we're providing a different product."
And while Caruso has been pushing his firm to expand with additional properties, he has also attempted to pay his success forward in other ways.
The chief executive has been actively involved in his charitable foundation, which he launched in 1991. His work in that sector even caught the eye of Pope Francis. Caruso was awarded the papal honor known as Knight Commander in the Order of the Knights of St. Gregory the Great in January.
Caruso said it was an unexpected award and one that was humbling.
And he added that, as with his business, he is very careful about how the foundation spends its money.
"We want the money to make an impact," he said. "What I learned a long time ago is it's better to pick a small handful of things and support it forcefully than to spread it out and not make as much of an impact."

La Opinion

Los Angeles takes important steps to strengthen its fight against indigence

Construction of a homeless housing complex in eastern Hollywood began Thursday, just the day Mayor Eric Garcetti said, "We are not here to address the issue of indigence, or to control or reduce it-but To end the indigence once and for all . "
The residential complex, part of the PATH Metro Villas project, will eventually house 187 people. The homes will be on the upper floors, while the first floor will be used to provide job training, mental health services and other resources to residents .
Because of this, the homes of the PATH Metro Villas project have been identified as a model to follow.
However, this project had to cope with multiple obstacles. The most pressing was the cost.
So far, the project is being carried out with federal funding and federal tax credits. But President Donald Trump's budget plan aims to eliminate this support.
Being eliminated, they will have to raise funds in other ways, possibly through revenue generated by the HHH Proposal and Measure H . Approved by voters, they will provide more than $ 1 million to help homeless people in the next ten years.
Even as of yesterday, nonprofits and places of worship in Los Angeles are authorized to offer shelter services 24 hours

a day, every day of the year , without having to apply for a city permit.
Previously, emergency shelters only had the right to exist for four months a year, typically during the winter. But the city council decided to expand this rule to the whole year on Wednesday.
The City Council explained its decision by citing the LA Homeless Services Authority census, which indicates that 28,000 people in Los Angeles have nowhere to live.
There were only 9,230 beds available for homeless people, said Councilman Mike Bonin, which means that nearly 20,000 people sleep on the street every night.

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Connect Create Collaborate

Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]> Sat, Sep 23, 2017 at 3:18 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[redacted]>, Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Naomi Seligman <naomi.seligman@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president
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Daily News
Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president
By Elizabeth Chou
Mayor Eric Garcetti is looking presidential to some Angelenos.
A majority of local area residents polled earlier this summer said they are just fine with the Los Angeles mayor running for president, according to results released by Loyola Marymount University.
In a survey that received 914 responses, 62.7 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political position. The percentage was slightly higher for residents of the city of Los Angeles, with 63.5 percent of those polled supportive of the idea.
Latinos were the most strongly in support, with 72.7 percent saying they back a presidential bid by Garcetti. The idea also polled the best with the 30-44 age-group, and among those who earn less than $40,000 annually.
Not everyone liked the thought of a run for president by Garcetti. The majority of those with a graduate degree and people with annual incomes of more than $100,000 said they do not support him running.
Details about the poll results and methodology can be found here.
The results provide further fodder for an ongoing parlor discussion by political observers around whether Garcetti is entertaining a run for president in 2020. Recent out-of-state trips by the Los Angeles mayor have fueled the speculation. He attended a Democratic Party convention in Wisconsin and participated in a fundraiser for a mayoral candidate in New Hampshire, a state that kicks off the presidential primaries.
Fernando Guerra, a Loyola Marymount political science professor who led the poll, says that at least for Angelenos, there is support for the idea of Garcetti running for president, but "naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles."

My News LA

LMU survey: 63% of Angelenos would support Garcetti for President

By City News Service

If Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti chooses to run for president, he need not worry about a local backlash, as a majority of county residents said in a new survey released Friday that they would support the move.

The question was asked of Los Angeles County residents as part of a survey conducted by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"At least in his hometown, Mayor Garcetti polls strongly as a potential candidate for president," said Fernando Guerra, director of the center. "Naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles. But as of today, he'd have L.A.'s backing."

After taking a number of steps that some political observers have seen as preliminary maneuvering to running for president in 2020, Garcetti has not ruled out a presidential run when asked directly by reporters over the last few months — but he also has not ruled out a run for governor of California in 2018.

Garcetti, a Democrat, recently visited New Hampshire to support a mayoral candidate in Manchester.

The visit to the site of the nation's first presidential primary during the August trip also included cocktails in the Hamptons at the estate of billionaire Ronald Perelman, a major political donor.

The mayor also recently appeared at Democratic Party events in Wisconsin and at the Center for American Progress' Ideas Conference in Washington, D.C.

According to the survey, 63 percent of the 914 respondents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti launching a bid for the White House.

Support for a Garcetti presidential run was strongest among Latinos (73 percent), voters aged 30-44 (69 percent), and those earning less than $40,000 a year (74 percent). Those with advanced graduate degrees or earning more than $100,000 annually were the only groups mostly opposed.

Even among residents who self-identified as conservative, 51 said they supported a Garcetti candidacy.

Daily News

Opinion: Keep attention on Aliso Canyon gas leak and its victims

By Christy Smith

Harvey, Irma, Jose, Katia and, now, Maria. Headline-snatching hurricanes and tropical thunderstorms are rapidly becoming a dystopian staple.

With Texas recovering from the devastating effects of Harvey, Floridians reeling after Irma and Puerto Rico still underwater from Maria, Americans are justifiably consumed by the current hurricane hype. As we send our well-wishes, the whole nation gives our sympathy and unwavering support to the victims of these natural disasters.

Unfortunately — as is often the case with the volatile nature of news — as one issue receives justified attention and coverage, others fade into obscurity while still desperately requiring public attention and administrative oversight. This has quickly become Porter Ranch's reality.

As the largest natural gas disaster in U.S. history, the 2015 Porter Ranch gas leak was by no means an insignificant issue.

Porter Ranch cradles the 36,000-acre Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, essentially a subterranean warehouse capable of containing up to 80 billion cubic feet of natural gas. On the morning of Oct. 23, 2015, a ruptured casing on one of the wells led to a torrential outpouring of methane into the atmosphere.

The emissions were so massive that NASA reported the damage could be detected and viewed from space. Approximately 8,000 families were forced to relocate at the time, with local schools shut down and business suffering from consumer flight.

While methane is not lethal to the same degree as carbon monoxide, medical research points to it having a variety of chronic health consequences. Known to cause bloody noses, nausea, and headaches to vomiting and rashes, methane is also considered highly dangerous due to its odorless composition, which prevents easy detection of a leak.

With its capability to trap radiation, trapping heat in the atmosphere, methane is also a damaging contributor to climate change and, on the scale of Porter Ranch's leak, deadly. The Environmental Defense Fund estimated that by mid-December the Porter Ranch leak's methane emissions were on par with 7 million new cars or six coal-burning factories. Over the span of a four-month ordeal, nearly 100,000 metric tons of methane were released into the atmosphere, which effectively doubled the emissions rate of the entire Los Angeles basin.

Indeed, Porter Ranch was on the lips of some of the world's leading figures in Paris last year as they debated and disagreed about the environmental impacts of climate change. L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, before the U.S. commitment to and subsequent withdrawal from the Paris agreement, lamented the crisis as a "natural disaster."

However, it seems to be far more than just that. More likely, this was also a human disaster. Since then, the Southern California Gas Co. has been buried in lawsuits surrounding corporate negligence, and has paid up to $465 million in costs associated with relocations and cleanup.

While the corporation undoubtedly feels it is doing a sufficient amount to cover reparations for this catastrophic blunder, recent developments are worrying.

A medical study that was being conducted as a follow-up to the gas leak under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey Nordella was abruptly blocked, because Dr. Nordella saw his employment as medical director of Porter Ranch Quality Care

terminated. Since the leak, Nordella had been tracking different developments in more than 100 patients who had been affected by the methane leak. Nordella, as reported by the Daily News, said he is concerned these developments could disrupt the continuity of care for the patients he sees.
Recently, state regulators made a critical mistake in declaring the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility safe enough to resume natural gas injections, ignoring the concerns of doctors, local residents and former Aliso Canyon employees. With public interest in Porter Ranch waning, the corporate and regulatory negligence, environmental consequences and health crises that caused and have followed the largest natural gas leak in U.S. history could very well dwindle into obscurity. Without adamant attentiveness, the thousands of victims affected by this ordeal, people who desperately require attention, will not be heard.
We need to keep Aliso Canyon closed.

My News LA

LA gets closer to more housing construction for average income people

By City News Service
City officials Friday released the final guidelines for a new incentive-based program for affordable housing production in Los Angeles near transit lines that was approved by voters last November as part of Measure JJJ.
The measure requires developers to build a certain amount of affordable housing if requesting changes to the city's general plan or other zoning and construction rules for projects, but also directed the city to develop the Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program.
The guidelines are final and do not require the approval of the City Council. Under Measure JJJ, the city planning director has final authority on the program.
"Voters sent us a clear and resounding message last November: end the crushing affordability crisis," Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Measure JJJ gives us a tool to do exactly that. The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."
The program creates a new system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within one-half mile of a major transit stop.
The program also grants higher incentives to projects that are 100 percent affordable or closest to high-quality transit areas. Qualifying projects are allowed to have additional density or floor area ratio to encourage the construction of additional affordable units.
"Zoning and housing production are linked at the core, and with our desperate need for more affordable housing, the incentives contained in the updated TOC program, which are mandated by the voters, puts more density around public transit where it makes sense," said Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee.
"Along with other recent actions we've taken to increase affordable housing for all Angelenos, we can look forward to a more vibrant, livable and sustainable Los Angeles," he said.

Daily News

LA one step closer to more affordable housing near transit lines

By City News Service
Final guidelines were released Friday for a new incentive-based program approved by voters in November to encourage the production of affordable housing near Los Angeles transit lines.
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LA Times

Mexico earthquake crumbles concrete buildings, sending deadly warning to California

By Ron Gon Lin

Seismic safety experts long have warned that brittle concrete frame buildings pose a particularly deadly risk during a major earthquake.

But a horrifying video taken during this week's magnitude 7.1 Mexico quake may do more to highlight the risk than years of reports and studies.

In it, sirens blare, utility poles sway. Then in the background, a building wobbles. Concrete starts falling out of a ground-floor column. Then the columns flex, and the upper floors come crashing down, sinking into a cloud of dust."¡Dios mío! ¡Dios mío!" a woman is heard saying. "My God! My God!"

The crumbled Enrique Rebsamen school in Mexico City — a three-story structure where at least 25 died, including 21 students — was made of concrete, as were many other structures that fell to the ground.

While they may be stout and muscular in appearance, concrete buildings without a robust level of steel reinforcement can see their columns peel off in chunks and then explode when exposed to violent side-to-side shaking.

In Los Angeles, dozens died when concrete structures tumbled in the 1971 magnitude 6.1 Sylmar earthquake. Several who perished were on a newly built hospital campus. And when two concrete office towers collapsed in 2011 during a 6.3 temblor in Christchurch, New Zealand, the 133 people who died accounted for more than 70% of the final toll.

After the Sylmar quake, officials quickly updated building requirements to add more steel reinforcement to new concrete buildings. But there was no systematic effort by many governments around the world to address the defect in existing concrete buildings.

'IT'S SUCH A TREMENDOUS IMPACT'

Mexico quake shows what seismic experts have long warned

Concrete buildings dot the California landscape, a popular form of construction during the postwar boom years.

But cities are just now beginning to grapple with how to make these buildings safer.

In 2015, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti pushed through a landmark law mandating retrofits of concrete buildings, hoping to avoid a catastrophe when the next earthquake comes. The city estimates there are about 1,500 such structures.

The law requires that once owners are given an order to evaluate a building, they will have 25 years to retrofit it if a study determines the structure is indeed vulnerable. City officials are in the process of identifying buildings that would be subject to the law.

A couple of other cities have done the same.

Santa Monica earlier this year published a list of vulnerable buildings — concrete, steel and wood-frame apartments — and enacted a new law requiring them to be evaluated and retrofitted if found to be vulnerable. West Hollywood also has enacted retrofit laws for the same classes of buildings.

Garcetti and seismic safety experts say the catastrophic images from Mexico this week will raise awareness of the dangers.

"Any building owner who thinks they should sit back and relax for the next 20 years should view that video. And let's figure out a way to get to work now," Garcetti said in an interview. "What's more expensive? The loss of your entire property — let alone the loss of lives — or the investment in making sure that no earthquake of that size will destroy your building or kill anyone?"

The collapsed school is a case in point. California-based structural engineers who looked at a Times photo of the school's remains said the collapse was consistent with the failure of a brittle concrete building.

Structural engineer David Cocke, vice president of the Oakland-based Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, pointed out how a concrete column at the school can be seen broken in half — a clean break. He said there should have been more steel reinforcement in the concrete that would have allowed the column to bend when shaken, not break like a piece of chalk.

"When they break in half like that, then you've lost it all," Cocke said.

Structural engineer Kit Miyamoto, a member of the California Seismic Safety Commission, said the photo "looked like the columns popped out of the building … there's no adequate reinforcement. It's exactly the problem of nonductile [brittle] concrete."

And the video showing the concrete building collapsing, Miyamoto said, has "such a tremendous impact. Most people think that they are helpless, it's too expensive to fix. That's a myth. This video can defeat that myth. Evidence exists, people are dying and we know exactly what to do."

"Actually being able to physically see the process — I think it's incredibly effective. It explains what a lot of the issues are," seismologist Lucy Jones said. "Concrete buildings seem sturdy … and being able to see directly why that's not true has got to start."

To be sure, some buildings in developing nations are not as well-engineered as some buildings in California, Cocke said. But "these buildings are not that dissimilar to some of our worst buildings. We're going to have failures on some of our older, nonductile concrete buildings that can be catastrophic — when we have intense shaking."

The video, Cocke said, also shows the threat of buildings with flimsy first stories, where relatively skinny columns hold up heavier upper floors. The so-called "soft-story" flaw is found in many California apartments, where the ground floor is built to house carports, garages or storefronts; flimsy supports can snap and collapse in shaking.

Other cities are looking at the issue.

Jones is now working with the Southern California Assn. of Governments to help cities come up with seismic retrofit

legislation to propose to their elected leaders. Jones said Long Beach is looking to hire a consultant to create an inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings. And Ventura has directed its city staff to work with Jones and SCAG to develop an approach for unretrofitted brick buildings and wood apartment buildings with flimsy first stories.
The brittle concrete defect gained considerable attention after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake caused the collapse of the newly constructed Olive View Medical Center.
Several other concrete structures came tumbling down in that earthquake, in which 52 people in all were killed as a result of concrete structure failure.
Brittle concrete buildings also collapsed in the magnitude 6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994, including a Bullock's department store and Kaiser Permanente medical office.
In addition to stabilizing concrete structures, efforts focused on other vulnerable buildings have shown signs of success.
Los Angeles' 1981 law requiring retrofitting of 8,000 brick buildings saved lives: Although 60 people died in the Northridge quake, none of them were in brick structures. L.A. and a handful of other cities in California are now also requiring retrofits for apartment buildings with weak first stories.
Retrofitting concrete buildings is considered more costly. The fixes could cost $1 million or more per structure. Occupants may have to move out during the renovation at an additional cost.
Yet a seismic retrofit is a bargain compared with the cost of replacing a collapsed building, Miyamoto said, which will be unusable and unable to generate rental income for owners. "There is no excuse to not do it," Miyamoto said. "It's spending 5% to 10% of the replacement cost to address the seismic strengthening."
Two concrete buildings at the San Fernando Veterans Administration Hospital crumbled in the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, killing 49 people. (Bruce Cox / Los Angeles Times)The Pyne Gould Corp. building collapsed when the magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2011. It was built in the 1960s, before the adoption of modern seismic standards for concrete buildings. (Hannah Johnston / Getty Images)
The experience in this week's Mexico earthquake also illustrates another fact: Just because your home or workplace survived a previous earthquake doesn't mean it will endure the next one.
A common sentiment in Los Angeles, as in Mexico City, was that buildings that survived past earthquakes were invulnerable to shaking. That's wrong.
Despite several devastating quakes — in 1933 in Long Beach, 1971 in Sylmar and 1994 in Northridge — many vulnerable buildings constructed during Southern California's rapid expansion in the 20th century simply have not had to face the intense shaking that scientists know can happen during an earthquake.
The last magnitude 7.8 quake that struck Southern California hit in 1857, long before the modern era of Los Angeles.
"I hear quite often: 'Hey, we went through the 1994 Northridge earthquake. We're OK.' Well, that's a false sense of security," Miyamoto said. "This earthquake proved it. Doing well in one earthquake doesn't mean you'll do well in the next."
At its closest point, the San Andreas fault is just 30 miles from downtown L.A. That closeness means the tallest skyscrapers in the nation's second-largest city could be quite vulnerable during a megaquake.
A U.S. Geological Survey simulation co-written by Jones and published in 2008 said it was plausible that five steel high-rise buildings throughout Southern California — whether in downtown L.A., Orange County or San Bernardino — could come tumbling down should a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strike the San Andreas.
After the Northridge earthquake, a flaw was discovered in a common type of steel building that showed how the frame can fracture in an earthquake; Los Angeles and most other cities in California have not passed laws requiring retrofits to repair this design flaw. (Garcetti on Friday said L.A. building officials are studying Santa Monica's new law passed this year requiring retrofits of steel buildings.)
"We don't really know what's going to happen to those really tall buildings. We've never put them through a really big earthquake," Jones said.
Downtown L.A.'s shortest buildings also haven't been tested with extreme shaking, Jones said. At no point in modern history has downtown Los Angeles endured the kind of intense shaking that the San Fernando Valley did during the Northridge quake.
"Your Northridge-type earthquake is about as bad as it gets for small buildings like a single-family house or a small apartment complex," Jones said. But while places like Northridge and Chatsworth have endured what is close to the worst-case shaking, places a bit farther away — like Pasadena, Hollywood and downtown L.A. — have not.
"Even Santa Monica" has not, she said, despite the intensity of damage in that coastal city during the '94 quake. "The reason there was so much damage there was because of how old the buildings are," Jones said.
Different earthquakes will test different buildings.
A sharp magnitude 7 earthquake on an urban fault that runs through the L.A. metropolitan region — such as the Newport-Inglewood, Whittier or Sierra Madre faults — will test short buildings like no other earthquake in the modern era, Jones said.
Meanwhile, a magnitude 8 on the San Andreas fault likely will spare the worst from striking single-family homes in places farther from the fault, including the L.A. Basin. But the same megaquake could result in "collapses of high-rises at relatively large distances from the fault," Jones said.
Miyamoto said L.A. is on the right track in retrofit policy, but should consider accelerating the deadline for retrofit requirement.
"We should go faster," he said. "The earthquake will not wait for us."

ABC Los Angeles

Mayor Garcetti discusses early warning system, status as sanctuary city

By Adrienne Alpert

The Mexico City earthquake turns attention to Los Angeles preparedness, and L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti is focused on both an early warning system and an emergency plan all residents should have.

While the county has a response team in Mexico, the city's firefighters are home from Houston and Florida hurricane response, "one of the largest and longest deployments in American history." They may go to Puerto Rico next.

Southern California has earthquake sensors, and other parts of the state are expanding their systems. Appearing on Eyewitness Newsmakers, Garcetti said by the end of next year, we should have a phone app sending the earthquake early warning. In the meantime, the mayor said, "You need an analog plan in a digital era." He said every family and workplace should drill where to go and what to do if communications are lost.

North Korea's renewed nuclear threat, now saying it will test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific, is very worrying to the mayor, who said Pyongyang may have the capability to reach Los Angeles. He said the city is relying on the Department of Defense and federal authorities for information.

Viewers wrote in questions for this Ask the Mayor program. One asked how citizens can get involved in the 2028 Olympics. There is a volunteer section on the website www.la28.org. Since the announcement L.A. will be a host city in 11 years, 14,000 people have already signed up. The mayor was pleased the promised Olympic money for Los Angeles youth sports is coming in soon so "a 7 or 8-year-old can compete in her backyard in 2028."

Many viewer questions focused on affordable housing and homelessness. Garcetti is pushing the city council to approve his linkage fee. It would charge luxury home developers a fee that would fund affordable housing. Developers say it will drive up housing costs even more.

To viewers who say the city is too crowded already, the mayor said he's sympathetic to preserving neighborhoods, but density needs to increase in transit corridors. He said rents are high because the city hasn't built enough, and density has to go somewhere. Using new funding sources, Garcetti talked about tripling the pace of affordable housing.

See more from his interview below:

Is Los Angeles sending any rescue teams to Mexico?

Yes. We have on the ground firefighters from Los Angeles County who are one out of two counties in the country who are authorized to leave the country when we have foreign aid. Our Los Angeles city firefighters were both in Houston and in Florida. One of the largest, if not the longest, deployments ever in American history. They may go to Puerto Rico. We just see so many events happening in so many places.

What is L.A. doing about an early warning system?

Well, earthquake safety has been a strong priority of mine. First, passing the toughest ordinance to strengthen our buildings that collapsed in 1994 and in 1971. But second, we do have an early warning system now on the ground, which is more sensors here than anywhere in the country has funded. We have it in many schools. By the end of next year, we think we will have it so that it can push to people's phones using cutting-edge technology so that we can get alerts that can save us precious seconds of time to get under a table, protect our family, protect our friends. But the last thing is people need a plan, and I keep saying this. I'm a broken record. I think especially for new generation of folks who just think our equipment will help us, you need an analog plan in a digital era. Where you're going to go whether you're at work, you're at home, in neighborhood, what's the safest place to be? Practice with your children. Practice with your family. Practice at work because that is literally what will save your life.

When the plan rolls out and gets to our phones next year, that would be just for earthquakes in the Los Angeles area.

Is the West Coast system still waiting for funding?

Yes, it's actually for Southern California, so not just L.A., but we have sensors throughout Southern California. Northern California hopes to build theirs and to catch up in other parts of the state. And then yes, to link it in to the western United States as well, but for now the stuff that is here in Southern California. We will get those warnings, and we want to tie it in, like they do in Japan, to things like elevators that can shut down, that can go to the next floor, let people off so you're not stuck in between floors. Some of our subways or light rail would stop so that they don't derail in the middle of something like that and lose lives. So we're going to also tie in the technology, not just the sensors.

North Korea has threatened a nuclear strike test over the ocean. Is L.A. doing anything? Can the city do anything to prepare should any missiles get launched our way?

It is very worrying. It seems like the technology is probably there for North Korea to reach the western United States, the West Coast, maybe even as far down as Los Angeles. We monitor very closely. We're in touch with the Department of Defense and our federal authorities. I've been in the Navy for 12 years working in the Pacific fleet area, so I am well aware of this threat. I hope that our diplomatic means and sanctions can be exhausted. Sometimes rhetoric can ramp things up, and it can be crazy. I'm hoping that we can ramp down the rhetoric, figure out a way to be strong, to defend our interest so to use whatever means we can to make sure it doesn't end up as a tragedy.

Do we have any kind of defensive system here in Los Angeles?

Not that the city of Los Angeles owns. The Department of Defense does have a defense system for the western United States.

Vickie Mays of Los Angeles asks, "The 2028 Olympics is a great time for a planning process that can benefit not only sports, but education, neighborhood development and civic engagement. How can the average person get involved?"

We're so excited the Olympics are coming home. Just last week I was in Lima, Peru, and it's going to be the third time

and only the third city to have that, and what I was blown away in the lead up is that we had 14,000 people sign up to volunteer already even though it's 11 years in the future. Our plan is to use that volunteer base to get engaged, to get involved, to do exactly what our viewer was saying, to adopt a school, help us with homelessness, clean up a neighborhood, be a coach and help maybe train a 6 or 7-year-old who could maybe train who could compete in her backyard here in the 2028 Olympics. Our first payment from the International Olympic Committee because we negotiated so well to have dollars for youth sports will start coming in the beginning of next year, so in 2018 we will start to see the fees in city's parks lessened, make it universal access to all sports for kids. I want to work with high schools and have that baton pass so that a kid could get involved in swimming at 5 years old and by the time they're 18 can have great coaching, great opportunities without having to worry about the cost.

Lorie Rust from Palmdale asks, "We don't want a sanctuary city, and we don't want our tax dollars used on illegal immigrants. We would like the mayor to reflect the views of his constituents, not just a certain sect or political party."

Everybody has a definition of what a sanctuary city is. I bet under her definition, which is a place that protects criminals and if you're an undocumented citizen bonus points. We're not that. But what we are and have been since Daryl Gates was our police chief, five different police chiefs, and I guess I'm too pro-cops to stop listening to them, is that we have a system that does not deputize essentially our cops to be immigration officials. That is the federal government's responsibility not ours. To build trust in our communities since for instance we just took down MS-13 in a huge two-year long operation, very dangerous gang, we were able to do that because we have trust in those communities where some people are documented and some aren't, that LAPD is somebody they can trust and tell them 'oh that is where the bad guy lives' or "hey check it out over there in that apartment." It makes us all safer when people come out of the shadows and are able to report crime and participate with LAPD.

City Council wants to declare L.A. as city of sanctuary, not as a sanctuary city. Will you support that if that vote takes place?

Yes, I've used that term and I always say that if being a city of sanctuary means that our cops do their job and the feds do theirs and we abide by the Constitution because we can't hold people longer than the Constitution allows, then yes that's what we are and proudly so. But I think that there is a misconception. A lot of people think a sanctuary city are mayors in the country saying "Please come here if you are a criminal." And that couldn't be further from the truth. We all want to get the bad criminals, and I'm worried that our federal policies are casting a wide net now. Not catching the bad sharks in the sea but are instead picking up a bunch of fish that are causing no harm.

John C. of Long Beach asks, "When and where will affordable housing be built? How many single units?"

Well it's being built already. You can go to the housing community investment department in our city to look where it is. We have a regular list. You can sign up to get on the waiting lists as well to get in the housing. It's not enough though. It's one of the reasons I am pushing our city council to pass as soon as possible. It's in its last phases so viewers can call their council members. Something called a linkage fee so whenever we see one of these large, luxury condominiums or apartment buildings come up in Downtown or Koreatown they'd have to pay a fee that we would then put aside to then build affordable housing for the rest of us, something that would subsidize literally thousands of units throughout our city.

Theresa Ramirez of Los Angeles asks, "Why do you support the overbuilding of housing units in Los Angeles, and specifically in the Echo Park, Frog Town areas? Our streets, roads, and freeways cannot handle the added traffic congestion that is caused by building for more units on a lot that used to have one unit."

"I think housing needs to be built, but it does need to be built in the right place. There is no one neighborhood or one place that I say automatically give a green light. So I'm sympathetic with people who want to preserve the single-family character of neighborhoods, but the tradeoff is that we have to along those corridors where we are investing public transportation, along the Wilshire corridor, places like the Crenshaw-LAX line that we are building now. Density has to go someplace and if we build nothing like we did in the '90s, it's not that people don't come here. They make it even worse in the traffic in the neighborhoods because they cram in what looks like one home might have four families in it. We need to build good, quality, affordable housing, but I do think we should put it where there is transit and public transportation so we don't have bottlenecks in all of our neighborhoods."

Phoenicia of Los Angeles asks, "With the current increase in the homeless population in Los Angeles, what steps are being taken to house this population, as well as housing for displaced families due to the increase in rent prices?"

It's my No. 1 concern. It's where I spend the most time. I have a war room that I've convened in City Hall where I spend hours each week on this. We, thanks to the voters, have HHH dollars which are 10,000 units worth of new housing that we will build, thanks to the voters of Los Angeles. Measure H which was countywide will also give us additional dollars to help with subsidizing and things like rapid rehousing, which is a fancy way of saying if you're on the verge of homelessness and you call the county or the 511 service they have there, you can get assistance.

And now we've seen Hepatitis A starting to show up in Los Angeles.

It really exploded in San Diego, but there's a couple cases here. I've really encouraged our county officials and our fire departments working for them to declare a public health emergency before it spread widely, especially in the encampment areas of Downtown and other places. We're giving our first responders and others who live on the street access to getting vaccinations as well. It's much worse down South, we saw it also in Santa Cruz, but we want to stop it before it spreads here.

Washington Post

It's already time to wonder if the NFL made a big mistake putting two teams in LA

By Mark Maske

It took more than two decades for the NFL to return to Los Angeles. The league's explanation during much of that time was that it wanted to make certain that when it did go back, it would be done in a way that would ensure lasting success.

It took all of two weekends into the first season with two L.A. franchises to make it fair to wonder whether the league's decision to permit the Chargers to join the Rams in Los Angeles was misguided.

"No one is covering what a massive mistake that the league and Chargers have made by moving this team to LA," Joe Banner, a former executive for the Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns, wrote this week on Twitter.

The concerns bubbled to the surface after the Chargers drew a crowd of just 25,381 to the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., for last Sunday's loss to the Miami Dolphins in their home opener. It's one thing to play in a tiny, 27,000-seat temporary home. It's another thing to fail to fill it.

The Rams drew 56,612 to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum last Sunday for their loss to the Washington Redskins. That made for a combined attendance of 81,993 for the two NFL franchises in Los Angeles last weekend. The USC-Texas game last Saturday at the Coliseum drew 84,714.

"Did we do the wrong thing with the Chargers? It's probably way too early to say that," a high-ranking executive with one NFL team said. "Let's see how it plays out. Let's see how they both do when they get into the new stadium. But I guess it does make you start to think a little bit."

The league likewise is taking a long-term view.

"They knew going in this wasn't a one-game or one-year solution where they could turn a light on and get the support they expect to get moving toward the opening of the new [stadium]," Joe Lockhart, the NFL's executive vice president of communications and public affairs, said during a conference call with reporters this week. "We remain confident the city of Los Angeles can support two franchises and committed toward making that happen."

The $2.6 billion stadium the Rams and Chargers will share in Inglewood, Calif., is scheduled to open in 2020. It is clear that in the meantime, the Rams and Chargers have work to do.

The owners voted in January 2016 to allow the Rams to move from St. Louis to L.A. and gave the Chargers the option to join them. Some within the sport thought that the option was granted as a consolation prize to Dean Spanos, the chairman of the Chargers, by owners who respected Spanos but preferred the Inglewood stadium proposal by Rams owner Stan Kroenke to the Carson project put forth by the Chargers and Oakland Raiders. The Chargers exercised their L.A. option in January of this year after failing to secure public funding for a new stadium in San Diego.

But was the NFL simply leaving San Diego because it could not secure a stadium solution there, rather than putting a second team in Los Angeles because it actually believed that was a good idea? It's an interesting question. Eric Garcetti, the mayor of Los Angeles, told "The Dan Patrick Show" this month that he would have been fine with the Chargers remaining in San Diego and the Rams being the lone L.A. franchise.

"We embrace any team that comes," Garcetti said in that radio interview. "We're certainly happy to have the Chargers in L.A. But I think we could have been happy with just one [team], too."

The Chargers have another chance this Sunday when they host the Kansas City Chiefs at StubHub. The biggest number to come out of that game won't be quarterback Philip Rivers's passing yardage or pass rusher Joey Bosa's sack total. It will be the attendance figure.

"We know going into this new market, it's going to take time to really authentically ingratiate yourself," John Spanos, the Chargers' president of football operations and a son of Dean Spanos, said in training camp this summer. "It's something that's going to take time. And that's something that we plan to do. And we also know that in an L.A. market, nothing's ever given to you.

"We don't show up expecting a red carpet, expecting anything to be given to us. We know that anything we gain, we have to earn. And so that's our approach. We have to work hard and earn the community's respect and earn their trust, and we look forward to doing that."

Daily News

Opinion: California votes for March madness over June Gloom

By John Phillips

With supermajorities in both houses of the state Legislature, the governor's mansion and every statewide constitutional office on the ballot, there isn't much that California Democrats can't get if they want it badly enough.

In the most recent legislative session the state's ruling class voted to make California a sanctuary state, jacked up fuel and energy costs in the name of curbing global warming, and gutted the spirit of Megan's Law by allowing convicted sex offenders to get their name off the required registration list.

They even approved a measure that would designate the Augustynolophus morrisi, a duck-billed dinosaur that roamed California 66 million years ago, as the state's official dinosaur.

No word yet if 79-year-old Gov. Jerry Brown will resist the impulse to designate himself and sign it.

In the midst of all this, and without much fanfare, the state Legislature passed a bill that could have a serious impact on the 2020 presidential race.

Last Friday, Sacramento lawmakers voted to change the state's primary date from June to March, which would allocate California's massive number of delegates just after the nation's first contests in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

The theory behind the move is that the nominees of both parties will likely be chosen before our traditional June

primary, and this is the only way to get candidates to pay attention to our concerns.
In expressing his support for the change, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla told CNN, "By having an earlier voice for candidates of all parties, for that matter, would make the candidates pay attention to issues that Californians care about, like health care access, like environmental protection, like diversity — not just talking immigration issues but workforce issues."
The conventional spin is also that this would elevate the chances of a California Democrat winning the Democratic nomination, as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and Gov. Jerry Brown have all been rumored to be mulling presidential bids.
Heck, even Congresswoman Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles, has been spending time raising money and campaigning for fellow Democrats in New Hampshire, which, of course, is home to the first-in-the-nation primary — although to be fair she has always spent a lot of time outside of her district, she doesn't even live there.
But in their rush to get a California Democrat in the White House, I would warn Golden State lawmakers about the law of unintended consequences.
Because of smartphones, the internet and other forms of technology, the definition of what is "local" has changed fundamentally. The regionalism that used to exist in the country is not as pronounced as it used to be.
Let's not forget that Donald Trump beat U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, R-Fla., in the 2016 Florida primary, and would have crushed former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, had he stayed in the race. Also, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton easily defeated Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the state of his birth, New York.
In my estimation, moving up the primary in the nation's most populated state would be most beneficial to a celebrity Democratic candidate. The Democratic field will likely be large and filled with a bunch of politicians that nobody has ever heard of. If a Michael Moore, Rosie O'Donnell, Tom Hanks or Alec Baldwin jumped in the race, they would instantly start out with a much higher name identification than some random governor or member of congress.
It would also create space for a bored billionaire, like Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg or enviro-sugar daddy Tom Steyer to jump in and buy themselves relevance in the race.
Whether it's "March Madness" or "June gloom," the fact remains, the three Democrats who will not be helped by the date change are Eric Garcetti, Kamala Harris and Jerry Brown.

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More Tickets, Longer Hours For Kusama Show At The Broad
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Connect Create Collaborate

Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]> Mon, May 1, 2017 at 4:05 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[redacted]>, Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]>, Cecilia Cabello home <[redacted]>, Dina Chang <dina.chang@lacity.org>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penera@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Kelly Jones <kelly.jones@lacity.org>, Kenneth Lee <kenneth.lee.intern@lacity.org>, Lynette Amerian <[redacted]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Omar Gonzales <omar.gonzales@lacity.org>, Ramon Covarrubias <ramon.covarrubias@lacity.org>, Ricardo Vasquez <ricardo.vazquez@lacity.org>, Rick Jacobs Personal <[redacted]>, Ryan Carpio <ryan.carpio@lacity.org>, Vance <[redacted]>, Yeghig Keshishian <yeghig.keshishian@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Thousands expected in downtown LA for May day march
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http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-maxine-waters-20170430-htmlstory.html
My turn: San Pedro leaders must step up and solve problems
http://www.dailybreeze.com/government-and-politics/20170430/my-turn-san-pedro-leaders-must-step-up-and-solve-problems
Sacramento Bets On Women To Help Lead The Tech Economy
https://www.forbes.com/sites/giovannirodriguez/2017/04/30/sacramento-bets-on-women-to-help-lead-the-tech-economy/#3cabb7fb7de6

KPCC
Thousands expected in downtown LA for May day march
There was the Women's March, the Tax Day March, the March for Science and the Peoples Climate March. Next up, advocates for immigrant rights and organized labor will hit the streets of Los Angeles for a May Day rally.
Organizers of the Resist Los Angeles march believe the event could draw as many as 100,000 demonstrators to downtown L.A. on Monday, May 1st, also known as International Workers' Day.
Last year's May Day march, held on a Sunday, drew far fewer people — somewhere between 2,000 and 10,000.
The 2017 march will be the first time since 2006 that all the city's May Day marches end at the same spot.
David Huerta, president of SEIU United Service Workers West, which represents janitors, security officers and other workers, tells KPCC, "We have a moment in time that we have to stand up and resist and respond to. We are a nation of immigrants. We are a nation of differences. In those differences, there's power. And right now, we need to come together and form that sense of unity in the resistance to the Trump agenda."
The protest, which was organized by a coalition of labor, immigrant-rights and faith-based groups, will start with a rally at 11 a.m. at MacArthur Park and end at City Hall.
Several local officials including mayor Eric Garcetti, state senator Kevin De Leon, and L.A. County supervisor Sheila Kuehl, are slated to speak at the event.
The march is expected to tie up traffic in downtown for several hours. Metro is adding trains to accommodate the expected influx of riders and police will be on maximum deployment Monday.
Union members have traditionally marched on May 1 to show their support for workers' rights. KPCC's Leslie Berestein Rojas explains: "In the United States, the annual events have become a rallying point for immigrants and their supporters since massive demonstrations in 2006 against a proposed immigration enforcement bill."

LA Times
How Maxine Waters became Auntie Maxine in the age of Trump
By Sarah Wire

Rep. Maxine Waters knows what "throwing shade" means now. She urges people to "stay woke."
In the past few months, young people have embraced 78-year-old Waters and her acerbic comments about President Trump, bringing the Los Angeles Democrat national fame in her 14th term, and a new nickname: Auntie Maxine.
"It's unusual for elected officials to step outside of the box," Waters said in an interview. "The millennials keep telling me for the most part they've never heard someone talk like that before."
Since refusing to attend Trump's inauguration, Waters, the longest-serving black woman in the House, has achieved icon-level status. Her image and quotes appear on T-shirts and posters. Twitter and Facebook are full of people rubbing their virtual hands in glee at what she might say next.
"When I grow up, I want to be @MaxineWaters. Thank you, Rep. Waters, for being unafraid to speak the truth," Crystal Webb, a young Twitter user, posted.
"On a different note, @MaxineWaters clap black game is sooooo strong!! #goals," said another.
"Anyone think Auntie @MaxineWaters is a hero?," asked another.
Young black activists in particular see a powerful and familiar figure in the impeccably dressed older woman expressing her opinion, even if it might be painfully honest, said Rashad Robinson, who leads the New York-based Color of Change, a progressive civil rights group.
"Maxine Waters has given us the viral videos to go along with our rants," Robinson said. "People are shaking their heads when she talks, and they are saying, 'Thank God someone said that.'
"I think for many young black folks, they have that sort of auntie or matriarch in their family that sort of says it like it is," Robinson said.
The congresswoman's sudden popularity has led to interview after interview in the likes of Teen Vogue, Jet, Elle, Essence, Cosmopolitan and millennial-focused news sites like Mic and BuzzFeed, with headlines like, "Maxine Waters Is Back and She's Not Here to Play."
Southern Californians have long been familiar with Waters, who lives in the Vermont Knolls section of South Los Angeles and is not known for holding her tongue.
In 1994, she was gaveled off the House floor when she refused to stop loudly criticizing a Republican member she felt had badgered a female witness during a hearing. In 2011, she accused President Obama of neglecting black communities, then a week later, said the tea party could go "straight to hell."
"Nobody should be surprised about me," she said.
But her derision of Trump goes far beyond previous criticism of political foes, and the new, norm-breaking president has energized her in a way other Republicans she's opposed have not. In an age when the call from many on her side of the aisle is "Resistance," Waters has become a de facto leader of the charge.
She couldn't fathom Trump's rise during the election, she said, pointing to his insulting comments about former presidential rivals Carly Fiorina and Hillary Clinton, the lewd "Access Hollywood" video in which he bragged about grabbing women and his mocking imitation of a disabled reporter.
"I can't get it out of my head," she said. "I've never seen anybody as disgusting or as disrespectful as he is."
The attention began when Waters refused to go to the presidential inauguration. She also stayed away when Trump gave his first speech to Congress, telling the Los Angeles Times, "I don't honor this president. I don't respect this president. And I'm not joyful in the presence of this president."
She has been saying she thinks Trump is headed for impeachment since even before he was sworn in. At an anti-Trump tax march in April, she said she'll "fight every day until he is impeached." She refers to his staff as the "Kremlin Klan" and has pushed for an independent investigation into Russian interference in the election and possible collusion by the Trump campaign.
Waters has made it clear she doesn't want to be in the same room with Trump, much less extend the courtesies commonly afforded the president, regardless of party. She has put politeness aside.
"Newsflash to Trump: Republicans control Washington. Russians control you," she tweeted in late April.
Waters has always been a target of conservative media, but the attacks have increased since she began in January to speak of impeachment. Last month, the far-right news magazine American Thinker called her unhinged and the "poster child for Trump Derangement Syndrome."
Now-ousted Fox News host Bill O'Reilly joked earlier this month that he was too distracted by her "James Brown wig" to hear her comments on the House floor about patriotism under Trump. He later apologized.
Waters responded on MSNBC: "Let me just say this: I'm a strong black woman, and I cannot be intimidated. I cannot be undermined. I cannot be thought to be afraid of Bill O'Reilly or anybody." Her comments quickly went viral.
Rep. Maxine Waters responds to Bill O'Reilly's comments about her hair.
The congresswoman says she's just being herself.
"Some people see me as a rabble-rouser. Some people see me as someone who does not care about what other people think about me. Some people see me as someone who makes other people look bad. ... I often get a feeling most people don't know who I am, or have a clue, and I live with that," Waters said. "I don't try to prove anything by talking."
Amid a black population that has receded in Los Angeles, Waters is one of the last powerful black politicians in Southern California and is known for her ability to rally South L.A. voters. Her endorsement has long been sought by seasoned and novice politicians alike, and she's played a leadership role in the national Democratic Party for decades.
Jewett Walker, who ran the campaigns of several South Los Angeles politicians and is now a Baptist pastor at a church near the border of Waters' district, said he expects her endorsement to carry even more weight in 2018 because of the attention she's getting now.

"You don't walk up to Auntie Maxine and ask for an endorsement without having some really important things to say about what you hope to accomplish and what qualifies you to run at this time," Walker said. "When Maxine gets on board and the community realizes that she is supporting a particular candidate, that brings a lot of sway to a particular race, if everything else is equal."

Waters, the fifth of 13 children raised by a single mother in St. Louis, began working in factories and restaurants at age 13. After high school, she moved with her family to Southern California, where she began her career in public service as a teacher and a volunteer coordinator of the newly created Head Start program. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree at what is now Cal State L.A. and served as chief deputy for then-City Councilman David S. Cunningham.

She won her first election for a state Assembly seat in 1977, where she became long-time Speaker Willie Brown's right hand. Waters led the drive to force the state pension system to divest billions of dollars in shares of companies with business in South Africa. She also helped pass legislation ending police strip searches for nonviolent misdemeanors and sponsored legislation to create a state program to help keep children safe from sexual assault.

"In the state Legislature, she could get anything through, anything done," said Fernando Guerra, director of Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles. "Some people try to depict her as a left-wing bomb-thrower. She's also the ultimate insider, knowing how to move things."

Guerra said in South Los Angeles, Waters' endorsement remains second only to that of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Waters was elected to Congress in 1991. The following April, her district was besieged by riots triggered by the acquittal of four white police officers in the beating of Rodney King. She brought food and diapers to the area and said it wasn't right to characterize what happened as riots.

"I maintain it was somewhat understandable, if not acceptable. So I call it a rebellion," she said at the time.

Waters has been criticized because her daughter charged candidates a fee to appear on Waters' sample ballots — mailers she sends to hundreds of thousands of residents listing candidates she supports. She came under fire in 2009 when the House Ethics Committee investigated allegations she helped a bank in which her husband owned stock receive bailout money during the financial crisis. The committee unanimously decided Waters did not break any rules, clearing the way for her to become the top Democrat on the Financial Services Committee in 2013, a position she's held since.

Controversy has not hurt her standing in the district she's championed over the past four decades. She has consistently been reelected with more than 70% of the vote.

In the district, she's helped found organizations that promote black women and provide job training to young people in public housing. A technical and adult education center serving Watts bears her name.

A former chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Waters spent the 1990s calling for investigations into whether U.S. intelligence agencies contributed to the crack cocaine epidemic in Los Angeles, and helped create funding to treat the spread of HIV in minority communities.

She also helped write the Dodd-Frank act, which instituted broad new oversight of the banking industry after the 2008 market collapse.

Her time on the Financial Services Committee has given her the chance to work on homelessness, housing and poverty. Waters has said she often stops along skid row when she's at home, a consistent reminder of why she's in Congress.

"I've seen a lot of poverty — coming up as a young child, lost hopes and dreams and people that never had a chance to have a decent quality of life. I believe we can do a lot greater than that," Waters said.

Rep. Karen Bass, a Democrat who represents the district next door to Waters', isn't shocked her colleague's forthrightness seems to have made her a millennial darling.

"She's been consistent, and it's playing a very important role right now," said Bass, who met Waters when she organized marches in Los Angeles in the 1980s to oppose South African apartheid. "She's a fighter, and that's what people are looking for: the resistance. People want to see somebody fight."

Waters said they're just looking for someone who speaks honestly. "For them, it's quite refreshing," she said.

At a time when many progressives are looking for the next head of their movement, Waters said she's hoping to use the surge in attention to act as a magnet for the Democratic Party.

"I'm not their leader," she said. "I'm an enabler."

Daily Breeze

My turn: San Pedro leaders must step up and solve problems

By Kenneth Bezich

About a year ago I wrote a column about growing up in San Pedro in the 1940s and '50s. Things were much different then. During the period between World War II and the Korean War, people respected the government and law enforcement. I was a child during that time and my memories were of family, school and friends and how people were considerate of each other and their neighbor, and respected each other's rights.

There has been significant progress since that time, but with progress comes regression — and this is how San Pedro has changed over the years. The problems this community faces today were nonexistent back then.

Let me begin with crime. Today, the community is exposed to all facets of crime, including home invasion, automobile break-ins, gang activity that includes beatings and intimidation of some of our youth, unsolved murders and random shootings.

The criminals are more brazen now because the LAPD is undermanned in San Pedro. Thugs roam the streets in the

late evening and early morning looking for their next victim. A new jail was built to house Harbor Area criminals but it's not open, so the police have to transport the criminals to a jail about 20 miles away. The police will respond to a crime if someone is injured, but if the crime is a theft or vandalism, the victim is asked to go to the police station to fill out a report.

Besides crime, San Pedro has become a sanctuary for the homeless. The majority of homeless in San Pedro are not residents of this town. Homelessness affects every city but it seems that San Pedro has more than its share. As a result of this problem, downtown San Pedro is turning into a slum. This affects downtown business and the overall economy of the town.

Traffic is another problem that affects us. Many streets have been turned into bike lanes that share the road with automobiles. Some of the streets that had multiple lanes now have one lane, which creates more congestion. Western Avenue is a joke now with traffic all day except maybe on Sunday morning.

The Highpark development across from Green Hills Memorial Park will add to our traffic woes by adding single-family homes, town houses and flats on 61.5 acres of land.

Another problem is the lack of street parking. Many motorists just double park, and in many cases leave their automobiles alone in the middle of the street with their hazard lights blinking.

There are many other problems, such as air pollution caused by some of the steamship companies on Terminal Island and the tank farm on North Gaffey Street, with its potential danger to residents if an explosion were to occur.

So how can the above problems be resolved or at least reduced? Our elected officials have not stepped up; San Pedro is the poor stepchild of Los Angeles and has been treated as such. Janice Hahn, who has held three different local political offices within the last decade, and our city councilman, Joe Buscaino, who is a former police officer, have done little to correct the above ills.

Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles is more interested in turning the city into a sanctuary city for illegal immigrants rather than focusing on the city's woes. These politicians need to focus on correcting these problems or face being replaced with others who will do the job.

Forbes

Sacramento Bets On Women To Help Lead The Tech Economy

By Giovanni Rodriguez

If you have been following this column, no doubt you will have heard what I call the "business argument for diversity." I've made that argument most often in the context of Latino entrepreneurship, paraphrasing Mitch Kapor, the Silicon Valley technologist-turned investor who has funded a number of Latino-led startups. Investing in Latino entrepreneurs is not just a nice thing to do. It's also a smart thing to do, because Latino entrepreneurs, as Mitch says, can help us "see around corners" in the new multicultural marketplace that others cannot see.

I thought about Mitch a couple of weeks ago when Remy Arteaga, a leader in entrepreneur education, wrote to tell me about a new accelerator for women entrepreneurs in Sacramento. As it turns out, I had already heard about the organization but had not quite figured out what to write. The accelerator, FourthWave, which originated in LA, is celebrating its first cohort in Sacramento tonight, and there are at least three things I'd like say.

The business case for women

First -- you guessed it -- is the business argument. In my talks with people who are inside the organization or close to it, the Mitch Kapor take on diversity might apply in this world as well. But it's not just about "seeing around corners" in new markets. The leaders of FourthWave point to research by the Kauffman Foundation that shows how "women-led private technology companies are more capital-efficient, achieve 35 percent higher return on investment, and, when venture-backed, bring in 12 percent higher revenue than male-owned tech companies," according to a writer for BusinessWeek.

I've heard this before -- as well as other data -- and it's becoming part of a larger narrative about the positive impact that women entrepreneurs might have on the US economy. But the flip side of that narrative is that women entrepreneurs -- like Latino entrepreneurs -- are struggling to get the support they need, especially the early capital that's required to launch a new technology venture. According to a 2014 report by the National Women's Business Council,

Male founders were more than three times as likely as female founders to access equity financing through angels or VCs (14.4% versus 3.6%). Men were also more likely than women to tap networks of close friends (9.2% versus 1.8%) and business acquaintances (13.5% versus 5.4%).

FourthWave aims to close the access-to-capital gap for women, just like organizations such as the Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative -- an organization I've written about several times -- aim to close the gap for Latinos. It's a mission based on an opportunity/problem/solution analysis. There's opportunity, for sure, but there are a set of challenges that must first be addressed.

The business case for Sacramento

Yet there's a little bit more to FourthWave story. It actually began in 2014, in LA, where founder Nancy Perlman was working for Mayor Eric Garcetti. In partnership with the mayor's Tech Council, Perlman launched the first iteration of the accelerator called Elevate. Among several key items in the mission statement was the commitment to encourage other cities to adopt the idea of city-supported women's entrepreneurship. The first taker: Sacramento, where a number of women leaders in the tech and design community -- including Melanie Weir, Tracy Saville, and Cheryl Beninga -- were ready to swing into action.

From where I sit, this is interesting. As I have written before, Sacramento is emerging as new tech hub, in part because of the city's commitment -- and by that, I mean money and mentoring. FourthWave Sacramento is funded by a city grant, and is supported more broadly by a public/private ecosystem that's coming into place. The ecosystem is becoming more and more visible through the leadership of Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Barry Broome (CEO of the Greater Sacramento Economic Council). More important, the ecosystem is becoming visible through the leadership of women, including Maria MacGunigal (CIO for the city of Sacramento), Margaret McKenzie (advisory board member at Astia, a Silicon Valley non-profit), Gina Lujan (founder of Hacker Lab Sacramento), Kim Kaselionis (managing partner at Breakaway Funding), and Sheri Atwood, CEO of SupportPay, which has been one of the city's big technology case studies since it decided to move its operations in 2016 from the Bay Area to Sacramento. The ecosystem, I believe, has helped to identify an impressive first cohort of Sacramento-area women entrepreneurs with new companies in healthtech, edtech, and other verticals where Sacramento might in fact have a regional advantage for talent.
But Sacramento has something else going for it: as the capital of the nation's largest economy, it might influence other cities that are looking to reimagine themselves with public/private partnerships, and to reimagine themselves with woman power. FourthWave draws inspiration from other city-based accelerators like Boulder Colorado's MergeLane. It's something that can probably happen throughout the US -- accelerating the economy with woman power, one city at a time. FourthWave and Sacramento are betting on that. Typically, I'm not a betting man. But I'm betting on woman power, too.

Arts, Parks & River:

OpEd: Refilling Silver Lake Reservoir is inexcusably wasteful. Better to live with empty pit
http://www.latimes.com/opinion/livable-city/la-oe-blackmore-silver-lake-reservoir-20170430-story.html

LA Artist France Stark's The Magic Flute Premieres At LACMA
http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/la-artist-frances-starks-magic-flute-premieres-at-lacma-998770

28th annual Fiesta Broadway kicks off Sunday in downtown Los Angeles
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Winter rain brings attention to Los Angeles River
http://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/winter-rains-bring-attention-to-los-angeles-river/3823260.html

Fans of El Chavo will love this mural
https://www.theeastsiderla.com/2017/04/fans-ofel-chavo-will-love-this-east-l-a-mural/

Hollywood and art world stars turn out to honor Jeff Koons at MOCA (and to dance to John Legend)
http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-et-cm-moca-gala-koons-20170430-htmlstory.html

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Environmental activists protest Wilmington refinery as part of Peoples Climate March
http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/04/30/71368/environmental-activists-protest-wilmington-refiner/

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Writer's Guild of America and studios appear to make progress in negotiations as strike deadline looms
http://www.latimes.com/business/hollywood/la-fi-ct-writers-guild-deal-20170430-story.html

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Hollywood Wonders If Writers Guild Will Strike For Seventh Time
http://variety.com/2017/film/news/strike-watch-writers-guild-hollywood-history-1202404047/

Hollywood studios braced for writer's strike
https://www.ft.com/content/3a72bd76-2d86-11e7-9555-23ef563ecf9a

Health, Mental Health & Education:

The amputation rate for diabetics in poor areas is high. This Boyle Heights clinic is trying to change that
http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-ln-amputation-clinic-20170501-story.html

North Hollywood High team advances in National Science Bowl
http://www.dailynews.com/social-affairs/20170430/north-hollywood-high-team-advances-in-national-science-bowl

Public Safety:

Pedestrian killed by Metro bus, hit-and-run driver in Van Nuys
vhttp://mynewsla.com/crime/2017/04/30/pedestrian-killed-by-metro-bus-hit-and-run-driver-in-van-nuys/

Pedestrian killed following hit-and-run in Van Nuys
http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170430/pedestrian-killed-following-hit-and-run-in-van-nuys

2 teens shot at wake for gang member in Hyde Park
http://mynewsla.com/crime/2017/04/29/2-teens-shot-wake-gang-member-hyde-park/

Apartment fire extinguished in Canoga Park
http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20170429/apartment-fire-extinguished-in-canoga-park

Transportation:

Gas tax bill-designed to fix California's roads-could lead to more smog
http://www.dailynews.com/environment-and-nature/20170423/gas-tax-bill-designed-to-fix-californias-roads-could-lead-to-more-smog

Metro:

Metro Formalizes Plan To Speed Up Purple Line's Completion
http://laist.com/2017/04/28/purple_line_zoom.php

New Kinkisharyo rail cars slated to roll on Blue Line Monday
http://thesource.metro.net/2017/04/30/new-kinkisharyo-rail-cars-slated-to-roll-on-blue-line-on-monday/

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LA Riots: 25 Years Later: Your Voices
http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/04/30/71371/la-riots-25-years-later-your-voices/

Los Angeles 1992: A Personal Reflection
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/los-angeles-1992-a-personal-reflection_us_59068e8fe4b03b105b44b9ee

Connect Create Collaborate

Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017

2 messages

Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]> Mon, Oct 30, 2017 at 2:55 AM
To: Carolyn comcast [redacted] Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti says he won't run for California governor
http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-garcetti-governor-20171029-story.html
LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for CA governor
http://abc7.com/garcetti-not-running-for-governor/2581799/
LA Mayor Garcetti Won't Run For California Gov-Opening Up 2020 Possibilities
http://forward.com/fast-forward/386366/la-mayor-garcetti-wont-run-for-california-govopening-up-2020-possibilities/
LA mayor announces he won't run for California governor
http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/357739-la-mayor-not-run-for-california-governor
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Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor
http://www.foxla.com/news/los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-says-no-to-run-for-governor
The Surprising Story Of Republican Towns Going Green
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/republican-mayors-green-energy_us_59f3843ee4b07fdc5fbe1a19

LA Times
Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti says he won't run for California governor

By Dakota Smith
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he won't run for governor of California.
"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in L.A.," he said on Twitter. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."
Garcetti's announcement is not considered a major surprise, given that the field to replace Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018 is filled with Democratic heavyweights including Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.
Since he was reelected as mayor in a landslide earlier this year, there have been questions about where Garcetti would go next. The governor's race had been one option. Another was running for U.S. Senate, but that was before Dianne Feinstein announced she would seek another term.
Some have suggested Garcetti could be a presidential candidate in 2020.
The mayor has been talking to Democratic donors and national political reporters and visited New Hampshire, the first primary state. But he has not officially announced an interest in running for president.
But he has not shut down speculation either.
"I think all the rules are off," he told a Wisconsin TV interviewer during a June visit to the Midwestern swing state. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is."
On Sunday, Garcetti said on Twitter: "I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together."

ABC Los Angeles
LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says he's not running for CA governor

By Associated Press
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has decided not to run for California governor, he confirmed on Sunday.
Garcetti, now in his second term as mayor, made the announcement on Twitter, saying he has more work he wishes to do in Los Angeles.
"I have decided not to run for Governor of California. I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles," Garcetti tweeted.
"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress

here in LA."
"I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go @Dodgers! -EG"
Garcetti had been mentioned as a leading potential contender for governor in 2018, but had not taken any substantial steps toward organizing a campaign. He is seen as having ambitions for higher office and has even been subject to speculation about a White House run in 2020.
He was re-elected mayor earlier this year with 81 percent of the vote.
Other potential leading Democrats eyeing the governor's race include Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, State Treasurer John Chiang, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, former Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin and billionaire environmental activist Tom Steyer.
On the Republican side, Assemblyman Travis Allen of Huntington Beach and venture capitalist John Cox are planning to run.

Forward

LA Mayor Garcetti Won't Run For California Gov-Opening Up 2020 Possibilities

By Aiden Pink
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he will not run for governor of California in 2018—thereby raising questions about whether the next campaign he wants to run is for president in 2020.
"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," Garcetti wrote on Twitter. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles. We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in LA. I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go Dodgers!"
Garcetti, who has served as mayor of the United States's second-largest city since 2013, has recently traveled to states that are significant for presidential contenders — New Hampshire, home of the first presidential primary, and Wisconsin, one of the most important swing states. He is also scheduled to travel to South Carolina, home of the first primary in the South.
No sitting mayor has ever been nominated for president.
Garcetti, 46, is Los Angeles' first Jewish mayor and second Mexican-American mayor. He was reelected in March with over 80% of the vote.

The Hill

LA mayor announces he won't run for California governor

By Max Greenwood
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) announced on Sunday that he will not run for California governor in 2018.
"I have decided not to run for Governor of California. I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles," Garcetti wrote in a tweet.
"We have a lot of work left to do to build a stronger city, state, and nation and I know I can best build on our progress here in LA."
"I can't wait to wake up tomorrow and continue the work we have started together. Oh yeah, and Go [Dodgers]!" he added from the official Garcetti for Mayor account.
Garcetti, who has also been rumored to be weighing a 2020 bid for the White House, has made trips in recent months to New Hampshire and Wisconsin, fueling speculation about his political future.
California Gov. Jerry Brown, another Democrat, is finishing out his final term in Sacramento. Already, several Democrats are vying for the governor's mansion, including former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and State Treasurer John Chiang.
Garcetti told the Sacramento Bee in August that he had not yet ruled out a gubernatorial bid. The New York Times had also reported that Democratic donors have urged him to consider a run for the presidency.

Press Enterprise

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti: No plans to run for California governor

By Brenda Gazzar
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has ruled out running for California governor in 2018 heightening speculation that he may seriously test the U.S. presidential waters.
"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," the 46-year-old Garcetti tweeted on his personal account Sunday. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."
Garcetti, who is serving his second term as mayor, said much work remains to build a "stronger city, state and nation."
"And I know I can best build on our progress here in LA," he wrote.
The decision makes sense if Garcetti wants to run for president because he can now spend a good part of 2018 campaigning in states like New Hampshire and Iowa instead of in California cities like Glendale and Fresno, said John "Jack" J. Pitney Jr., a professor of government and politics at Claremont McKenna College.
"The gubernatorial campaign would use up enormous amounts of time and resources," Pitney said. "This step preserves the option of running for president. He may not decide to jump off that board, but at least he can still plausibly make that decision."

The announcement does not come as a surprise given that there are already three prominent progressive Democrats running for governor — Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Treasurer John Chiang, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Democrat Delaine Eastin, former superintendent of public instruction, is also among those vying for the governor's seat.

It would have been difficult for Garcetti to distinguish himself from the gubernatorial field not only in policy but in position, he said. Both Newsom and Villaraigosa are former mayors. In addition, Garcetti would have gotten a late start compared to the others in terms of endorsements, contributions and general support.

Garcetti's name had also circulated as a possible contender for Sen. Dianne Feinstein's seat. But Feinstein, 84, announced earlier this month that she planned to run for a fifth full term in 2018 and Garcetti has thrown his support behind her. State Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, who is considered urban, progressive and Latino like Garcetti, is now taking on Feinstein in an effort to win the veteran senator's seat.

"Given the candidates running for governor and the candidates running for U.S. Senate, the only thing left for (Garcetti) to do is run for president," Guerra said. "And the reason is he can distinguish himself much more as a candidate for president against that potential field than he could distinguish himself for candidates running for governor and U.S. Senate."

Garcetti political adviser, Yusef Robb, said Sunday that the mayor would have been a "a very competitive candidate" for governor, something echoed by political pundits.

"But L.A. is home and is such a tremendous platform from which to launch big things on jobs, infrastructure and more," Robb wrote in an email. He cited Measure M transportation projects, homelessness initiatives and airport and port investments as well as the rising Silicon Beach, home to hundreds of tech startups on greater Los Angeles' west side.

Meanwhile, there's currently no clear frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Garcetti could distinguish himself as an expert of urban policy in light of the fact that the vast majority of voters in the Democratic Party live in urban areas, Guerra said.

There are other factors that also distinguish Garcetti on a national level, he added. During his tenure, he's delivered not only the Summer Olympics in 2028 but two NFL teams and the World Series.

"It speaks to his ability to be able to negotiate and communicate the essence and positive position of Los Angeles," Guerra said.

A majority of local Los Angeles County residents polled earlier this summer said they are fine with Garcetti running for president, according to a recent Loyola Marymount University survey.

Nearly 63 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political post.

But whether the local support will translate to national support is not yet clear.

When asked about Garcetti's chances to be elected president, Guerra said the LA mayor probably has about a 5 percent chance at this point. But he argued "that's actually pretty good since "I don't think there's anybody else that has a 10 percent chance of winning right now."

While no U.S. president has been elected president while serving as mayor, the most recent presidential election has proven that Garcetti's chances could be just as good as the next potential candidate, he added.

"If we can elect someone like Donald Trump, we can elect anyone," Guerra said.

In a similar vein, Pitney noted that Garcetti has "very little" national recognition outside of California.

"Practically nobody knows who he is but that is true of most presidential candidates and that was true of (former U.S. President) Barack Obama in 2005," he said.

Fox Los Angeles

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.

Garcetti tweeted his decision Sunday, saying he wants to continue to serve in Los Angeles because he's passionate about his city and family.

The 46-year-old decisively won a second four-year term in March. He can't run for a third under LA term limits.

Some political observers have speculated the Democrat may be eyeing a presidential bid in 2020.

Several people are hoping to replace Gov. Jerry Brown when his second term ends next year.

The leading candidates are Republican businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Travis Allen, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Huffington Post

The Surprising Story Of Republican Towns Going Green

By Marisa Taylor

During the Great Recession, the city of Lancaster, California, had a 17 percent unemployment rate and a housing market dominated by foreclosures. Mayor R. Rex Parris (R) knew he needed to do something drastic.

After meeting with a tech innovator who wanted to build a solar thermal plant that used mirrors to focus the sun's energy, Parris realized that Lancaster could harness California's abundant sunshine to create new jobs, save people money on their utility bills, increase the value of local homes and slash the city's overall energy use.

It became his mission to make Lancaster, which is located about an hour away from Los Angeles, the alternative-

energy capital of the world, he told HuffPost. While the solar plant was being built — it switched on in 2009 — Parris read everything he could about renewable energy. What he learned about climate change terrified him.
"Up until then, I believed the Republican mantra that this [climate change] is just a Chinese plot," Parris joked.
Now he talks about solar energy as a way to save costs and a means to "mitigate climate disruption on a much larger scale" (to quote a recent public statement).
Parris may be one of the early GOP adopters, but he's not the only Republican mayor who has embraced renewable energy, often in opposition to the party's national agenda.
President Donald Trump campaigned last year on a promise to pull the U.S. out of the Paris accord on climate change — which he made official in June. Even before Trump took the oath of office, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) began rounding up his fellow mayors to pledge that their cities would still abide by the tenets of the treaty. The group, which has grown to nearly 400 mayors representing 68 million Americans, is dominated by Democrats — but six GOP mayors have also signed the pledge:
Jim Brainard, of Carmel, Indiana
Jim Cason, of Coral Gables, Florida (served as mayor until April 2017)
Richard David, of Binghamton, New York
Kevin Faulconer, of San Diego
Tomas Regaládo, of Miami
Knox White, of Greenville, South Carolina
In early 2016, the Sierra Club launched its Ready For 100 campaign, calling on U.S. cities to convert to 100 percent clean energy within 20 years. So far, 150 cities have signed on, including four that are helmed by Republican mayors:
Faulconer, of San Diego
Bob Dixson, of Greensburg, Kansas
Greg Lemons, of Abita Springs, Louisiana
Dale Ross, of Georgetown, Texas
Indeed, Greensburg has already reached its goal.
The average American family would save $260 a year on energy costs — and $1,500 on health care costs — if the U.S. were to operate on 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, according to a 2015 Stanford University study.
Financial considerations like that can get GOP leaders interested in green energy, said Jodie Van Horn, director of the Ready For 100 campaign.
"There are a number of Republican cities that are transitioning over to renewable energy because they're driven by economic concerns," she said.
Committing to renewable energy is a point of pride for Dale Ross, a die-hard Texas Republican. An accountant by profession, Ross said he's all about making the most cost-effective decisions for the 63,000 people of Georgetown, which he calls an "itty-bitty city."
In Texas' deregulated energy market, Georgetown has been able to negotiate new contracts with wind and solar power providers that have proved to be much cheaper than fossil fuel-based electricity. The city was also able to negotiate a fixed price for the next 25 years, which meant making the jump to clean energy was a no-brainer for the mayor.
"I think if people follow the money, the economics demand that you go to renewable [energy]," Ross said.
But Ross has also come to appreciate the environmental benefits of powering his town with wind and solar. He hopes his fellow Republicans can get over what he called the fear of being labeled a "progressive."
"Don't we have an obligation and duty to leave the planet in better condition than we found it? I think we do," Ross said. "Especially since we have the technology and the ability to do that."
Parris, who is still the mayor of Lancaster, said the green energy push there has created more than 1,000 local jobs and cut energy costs by 3 to 15 percent, while unemployment has fallen to 4 percent. He worked to broker a partnership with solar provider SolarCity in 2010 that has helped residents make the switch to solar power in their own homes. And in 2014, Lancaster became the first U.S. city to require new buildings to be solar-powered.
Now, Lancaster leads the state of California in per capita solar energy production. Earlier this month, the city of 160,000 got the go-ahead from the California Energy Commission to implement its net-zero energy ordinance, which requires all homes to produce more energy than they use.
"We produce more kilowatts [of solar energy] in Lancaster than we use in 10 years," Parris said proudly. "It just makes sense. It's a better house, it's cheaper. You've just got to change your business model."

City Council:

Curtailing the freedom of assembly in Los Angeles
http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/28/curtailing-the-freedom-of-assembly-in-los-angeles/

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Is Hollywood Tax Credit Still Needed To Protect Industry Jobs?
https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/10/30/is-a-hollywood-tax-credit-still-needed-to-protect-industry-jobs/

Homelessness & Poverty:

Is compassion giving way to anger over homelessness in Southern California?
http://www.ocregister.com/2017/10/29/compassion-giving-way-to-anger-as-so-cal-residents-ponder-homelessness/

Housing:

Seven story condo project could replace 1920s Koreatown apartments
https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/29/16567342/koreatown-development-condos-apartments-demolition

Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights & Equity:

Could the end of DACA hurt foreign investment in Southern California?
http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/could-the-end-of-daca-hurt-foreign-investment-in-southern-california/

Public Safety:

Parker Center, home to police dramas real and fictional, comes nearer to demolition
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Tearing down TV's Dragnet LAPD headquarters: Parker Center race relations controversy
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Man In 70s Shot To Death On His Front Lawn
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Police investigate a fatal shooting of a man outside his Valley Glen home
http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-van-nuys-shooting-20171029-story.html

Man fatally shot in Valley Glen, suspect flees
http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/1-man-injured-police-investigate-shooting-call-in-valley-glen/

LAPD Investigating Former APA Agent Tyler Grasham Amid Sexual Assault Allegations
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1 injured in Mar Vista officer involved shooting
http://abc7.com/1-injured-in-mar-vista-officer-involved-shooting/2581979/

Officer Involved Shooting In Mar Vista Leaves Man Injured: LAPD
http://ktla.com/2017/10/29/officer-involved-shooting-in-mar-vista-leaves-man-injured-lapd/

Man Shot And Wounded By LAPD Officer In Mar Vista
https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Man-Shot-by-LAPD-Officer-in-Mar-Vista-454030203.html

Search For Hit And Run Driver After Pedestrian Struck And Killed In South LA
http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Search-for-Hit-and-Run-Driver-After-Pedestrian-Struck-and-Killed-454042143.html

A pedestrian dies in Venice crosswalk, where red tape has delayed safety upgrades
http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-venice-pedestrian-death-20171027-story.html

Crosswalk Safety Concerns In Venice After Pedestrian Killed
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Rocks, crowbars used to break into 7 West Valley businesses
http://www.dailynews.com/2017/10/29/rocks-crowbar-used-to-break-into-7-west-valley-businesses/

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Tom Bradley terminal at LAX temporarily evacuated due to suspicious package
http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lax-suspicious-package-20171029-story.html

LAX's Tom Bradley Terminal briefly closed due to suspicious package
https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/29/77165/suspicious-package-closes-lax-s-tom-bradley-termin/

Evacuation ended at LAX Bradley terminal after suspicious bag cleared
http://abc7.com/evacuation-ended-at-lax-after-suspicious-bag-cleared/2582046/

Suspicious package at LAX: Terminal evacuated, bomb squad called in
https://mynewsla.com/crime/2017/10/29/suspicious-package-at-lax-terminal-evacuated-bomb-squad-called-in/

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Some tough choices-and pushback-along the proposed bullet train route
http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-bullet-train-opposition-20171029-story.html

City of Los Angeles:

Dodgers lose 13-12 to Astros in gripping Game 5 slugfest, fall behind 3-2 in World Series
http://abc7.com/sports/dodgers-lose-to-astros-in-game-5-fall-behind-3-2-in-world-series/2582263/

Astros are one win from World Series title after outslugging Dodgers 13-12 in World Series Game 5
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Astros edge Dodgers in walk off thriller, lead World Series 3-2
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Dodgers Faces Elimination After Heartbreaking Loss To Astros
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Astros Blast By Dodgers 13-12 in 10th, Lead World Series 3-2
http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2017/10/29/astros-blast-by-dodgers-13-12/

Astros beat LA Dodgers 13-12 in extra inning Game 5 of the World Series
http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/houston-astros-get-first-ever-world-series-victory-at-home-beat-dodgers-5-3

Dodgers lose 13-12 to Astros in Game 5 of World Series

http://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/29/77164/dodgers-astros-game-5-world-series/

Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Mon, Oct 30, 2017 at 8:43 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]
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Riki Esquer
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213.978.0724

Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

2 messages

Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]> Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 3:22 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[redacted]>, Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Seriously Considering 2020 Presidential Run
http://www.tmz.com/2017/10/30/l-a-mayor-eric-garcetti-run-for-president-2020-democrat/

Garcetti, possible 2020 hopeful, launches innovation group
https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/30/garcetti-possible-2020-hopeful-launches-innovation-group-244242

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Starting Nonprofit For Investing In Innovation
https://www.newsmax.com/us/eric-garcetti-nonprofit-innovation/2017/10/30/id/822896/

Mayor Garcetti Says He Won't Be Running For Governor Of California
http://laist.com/2017/10/30/garcetti_wont_be_running_gov.php

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor
https://www.scpr.org/news/2017/10/30/77174/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-says-no-to-run-for-governor/

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor
http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/los-angeles-mayor-eric-garcetti-run-governor-50801199

Mayor Garcetti will not run as California governor
https://laopinion.com/2017/10/30/alcalde-eric-garcetti-no-se-postulara-como-gobernador-de-california/

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for governor but what WILL he run for?
http://www.dailybreeze.com/2017/10/29/la-mayor-eric-garcetti-no-plans-to-run-for-california-governor/

ANCA Engages Officials In The US and Armenia With The Aim of Launching Non Stop Flights To Yerevan
https://armenianweekly.com/2017/10/30/anca-non-stop-flights-yerevan/

Day of the Dead culture is getting pulled into Halloween's retail vortex
http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-agenda-retail-muertos-20171030-story.html

Wedding cake same-sex bakery battle at US Supreme Court: LA backs gay couple
https://mynewsla.com/government/2017/10/30/wedding-cake-same-sex-bakery-battle-at-us-supreme-court-la-backs-gay-couple/

Hepatitis Outbreak In LA: A Wake Up Call
http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/los-angeles-for-rss/14273-hepatitis-outbreak-in-la-a-wake-up-call

I'm A Pit Bull! I'm Not A Pit Bull! LA Animal service Playing Games With Breed ID Labels!
http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/neighborhood-politics-hidden/361-petwatch/14276-i-m-a-pit-bull-i-m-not-a-pit-bull-la-animal-services-playing-games-with-breed-id-labels

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park
https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16578110/la-river-bike-path-canoga-park-studio-city

Could A Simpler Delta Tunnel Solve Years Of California Water Conflict?
https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2017/10/31/could-a-simpler-delta-tunnel-solve-years-of-california-water-conflict

TMZ

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Seriously Considering 2020 Presidential Run

Eric Garcetti, the enormously popular Mayor of Los Angeles, is "seriously considering" throwing his hat in the ring for the 2020 Presidential race ... multiple sources connected to Garcetti tell TMZ.

Garcetti just announced he's not going to run for Governor of California, and our sources say that clears the deck for an even bigger race.

One Garcetti confidante told us to look at the Mayor's travel schedule, and it is interesting. Over the past 12 months he spent 112 days outside California and since May he's been out of state for 51 days.

Garcetti is a die-hard democrat who has increasingly gained stature in the party. Our sources say a Presidential run is a "frequent discussion" among his staff.

Garcetti has made a difference in L.A. like few mayors have with various initiatives ... the crown jewel was snagging the Olympics for 2028.

For his part, Garcetti tweeted over the weekend, "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles." At the same time, Garcetti has said when it comes to politics, "All the rules are off" ... the takeaway there is you don't have to be a U.S. Senator or Governor in order to run for President.

Politico

Garcetti, possible 2020 hopeful, launches innovation group

By Edward Isaac Dovere

Prospective presidential candidates tend to launch PACs to pump money into campaigns of people who might prove helpful. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is starting a nonprofit with other mayors, union leaders and business executives to fund what they call innovation investments around the country.

Called Accelerator for America, the group will hold its first meeting Nov. 7 and 8 in South Bend, Indiana, timed to coincide with the anniversary of last year's election. The second meeting is already booked for February, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Garcetti announced on Sunday that, as expected, he wouldn't run for governor of California in 2018, writing on Twitter, "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles." But skipping a statewide run now clears him to continue his exploration of national politics — reelected earlier this year, his second term will now last five and a half years due to a change in the election schedule, through 2022.

The mission of Accelerator for America is to provide strategic and educational support in cities, counties and states where there are ballot initiatives for infrastructure funding. Leaders of the group will also look to invest directly in existing organizations that promote jobs and skills training that they believe can be scaled out around the country.

They begin with $1 million in funding, half of which comes from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. More money is expected.

Garcetti, who'll be chairing the council, said the inspiration for it came from the success of last year's Proposition M in Los Angeles, which authorized $120 billion for infrastructure investment over the next decade. Its passage contrasted with the failure of the Trump administration to provide any details — let alone launch a legislative push — for its promised $1 trillion infrastructure plan.

"America's cities are here, with all due respect, to help save D.C.," Garcetti said. "We've all seen so many panels and plans and promises, but what we're missing is quick action."

On the stump, Garcetti has used a line about wanting "a Democratic voice in local politics, a local voice in Democratic politics," and he says, "I realized the same thing could be said in a nonpartisan way—a local voice in national politics, a national voice in local politics."

Garcetti said he plans to open November's meeting by listing three objectives: "helping Americans build their future," "helping Americans find their dreams," and "helping Americans live well."

When it's pointed out to him that this sounds like presidential rhetoric —especially in the context of a politician who this year has given a speech in the swing state of Wisconsin, spent a day campaigning in New Hampshire and made frequent appearances at national Democratic events —he said, "I hope it's not my platform—I hope it's a platform for local leaders."

Garcetti, whose jobs group will happen to take him to Indiana and South Carolina, added, "I'm certainly not waiting for the next presidential election to get started."

Longtime Garcetti aide Rick Jacobs will serve as CEO of the group, which is in the process of being incorporated as a 501(c)3.

Each member of the advisory council is being asked to make three suggestions for initiatives to back, and they'll look to take applications as the group develops.

"The more we can do to link up the capital and expertise that's on the coasts with the needs in the middle of the country, the better," said South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who helped develop the concept for Accelerator for America with Garcetti following conversations at meetings of the U.S. Conference of Mayors over the summer.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters general president Doug McCarron pointed out that Proposition M is expected to create 465,000 jobs over 40 years.

"We take that show on the road and we show different cities and counties what can be achieved locally," McCarron said. "There's got to be an uprising of spirit at the local level. It's really easy to point fingers at Washington."

The other advisory council members are: Nashville, Tennessee Mayor Megan Barry; Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Steve Benjamin; Dayton, Ohio Mayor Nan Whaley; Washington State Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib; International Union of Operating Engineers general president James Callahan; Echoing Green president Cheryl Dorsey; Dollar Shave Club founder & CEO Michael Dubin; PolicyLink CEO Angela Glover Blackwell; Incite.org CEO Swati Mylavarapu; Social Capital Founder and CEO Chamath Palihapitiya; and HNTB president and CEO Rob Slimp.
All the elected officials involved so far are Democrats, though the group does expect to add Republicans to its advisory council.

Newsmax

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Starting Nonprofit For Investing In Innovation

By Joe Crowe
Eric Garcetti, the Democratic mayor of Los Angeles is working with other mayors, union leaders, and business executives to launch Accelerator for America, a nonprofit for funding innovation around the U.S., according to Politico.
Accelerator for America's mission is to support strategic and educational support in areas where there are initiatives for infrastructure funding on the ballots. Leaders will put investments directly in existing organizations that promote jobs and skills training, Politico's report said.
Garcetti, who will be chairman of the group, said the group's inspiration came from Proposition M in Los Angeles that authorized $120 billion in investment in infrastructure over the next decade. Proposition M's passage contrasted with President Donald Trump's administration's failure to launch its promised $1 trillion infrastructure plan, Politico reported.
"America's cities are here, with all due respect, to help save D.C. We've all seen so many panels and plans and promises, but what we're missing is quick action," Garcetti said, according to Politico.
Garcetti said he wants "a local voice in national politics, a national voice in local politics."
The group begins with funding of $1 million — half of that provided by United Brotherhood of Carpenters. More funding is expected, Politico's report said.
The group's first meeting will be Nov. 7 and 8, coinciding with the anniversary of the 2016 presidential election. Garcetti said he would open the meeting with three objectives: "helping Americans build their future," "helping Americans find their dreams," and "helping Americans live well."
"I hope it's not my platform — I hope it's a platform for local leaders… I'm certainly not waiting for the next presidential election to get started," Garcetti said when it was noted that the comment sounds like a presidential candidate's rhetoric, according to Politico.
All the officials in the group so far are Democrats, but the group expects to add Republicans to its advisers, Politico reported.

LAist

Mayor Garcetti Says He Won't Be Running For Governor Of California

By Annie Lloyd
Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he will not be running for governor of California, ending speculation he would try to replace Governor Jerry Brown in the 2018 election.
If he were to enter race, he would be campaigning against former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. Instead, he will remain in Los Angeles to "best build on our progress here in L.A.."
Garcetti won his second term as mayor by a landslide back in March. He was sworn in in July, so he's only a few months in to his second term, which will last five and a half years due to a one-time change in the election year.
His decision not to run for governor doesn't mean he won't look for a presidential run in 2020. While he and his camp have kept mum on the matter, we've noted that he's visited multipleswing states and had a meet-and-greet with billionaire donor Ronald Perelman. He also spoke to a TV reporter in Wisconsin back in June, saying, "I think all the rules are off," according to the L.A. Times. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is," he said. We'll fill in the next sentence: no Los Angeles Mayor could be president until Garcetti is.

KPCC

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

By Associated Press
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.
Garcetti tweeted his decision Sunday, saying he wants to continue to serve in Los Angeles because he's passionate about his city and family.
The 46-year-old decisively won a second four-year term in March. He can't run for a third under LA term limits.
Some political observers have speculated the Democrat may be eyeing a presidential bid in 2020.
Several people are hoping to replace Gov. Jerry Brown when his second term ends next year. The leading candidates are Republican businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Travis Allen, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

ABC News

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

By Associated Press

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.

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Several people are hoping to replace Gov. Jerry Brown when his second term ends next year. The leading candidates are Republican businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Travis Allen, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

La Opinion

Mayor Garcetti will not run as California governor

Eric Garcetti, mayor of the city of Los Angeles, announced on Sunday that he will not run to replace Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018.

"We still have a lot to do to build a stronger city, state and nation," said Garcetti, through a tweet. "I know I can grow the success we've had here in Los Angeles," he added.

Speculation about the political aspirations of the mayor of Los Angeles increased in recent months, during which Garcetti traveled to several states of the country and refused to deny the rumors.

However, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa, former mayor of Los Angeles , recently announced his cadidacy, and this may have affected his decision. As the Los Angeles Times points out , the abovementioned, as well as Treasurer John Chiang, share taxpayers. Even the Villaraigosa campaign will be backed by Latino and Angeleno voters, two sectors to which Garcetti would have also gone.

Due to a change in election dates, Garcetti will serve as mayor until 2022 . According to a report in The New York Times , some Democratic contributors urge him to consider the presidency in 2020 .

Daily Breeze

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for governor but what WILL he run for?

By Brenda Gazzar

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has ruled out running for California governor in 2018 heightening speculation that he may seriously test the U.S. presidential waters.

"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," the 46-year-old Garcetti tweeted on his personal account Sunday. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."

Garcetti, who is serving his second term as mayor, said much work remains to build a "stronger city, state and nation." "And I know I can best build on our progress here in LA," he wrote.

The decision makes sense if Garcetti wants to run for president because he can now spend a good part of 2018 campaigning in states like New Hampshire and Iowa instead of in California cities like Glendale and Fresno, said John "Jack" J. Pitney Jr., a professor of government and politics at Claremont McKenna College.

"The gubernatorial campaign would use up enormous amounts of time and resources," Pitney said. "This step preserves the option of running for president. He may not decide to jump off that board, but at least he can still plausibly make that decision."

The announcement does not come as a surprise given that there are already three prominent progressive Democrats running for governor — Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Treasurer John Chiang, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Democrat Delaine Eastin, former superintendent of public instruction, is also among those vying for the governor's seat.

It would have been difficult for Garcetti to distinguish himself from the gubernatorial field not only in policy but in position, he said. Both Newsom and Villaraigosa are former mayors. In addition, Garcetti would have gotten a late start compared to the others in terms of endorsements, contributions and general support.

Garcetti's name had also circulated as a possible contender for Sen. Dianne Feinstein's seat. But Feinstein, 84, announced earlier this month that she planned to run for a fifth full term in 2018 and Garcetti has thrown his support behind her. State Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, who is considered urban, progressive and Latino like Garcetti, is now taking on Feinstein in an effort to win the veteran senator's seat.

"Given the candidates running for governor and the candidates running for U.S. Senate, the only thing left for (Garcetti) to do is run for president," Guerra said. "And the reason is he can distinguish himself much more as a candidate for president against that potential field than he could distinguish himself for candidates running for governor and U.S. Senate."

Garcetti political adviser, Yusef Robb, said Sunday that the mayor would have been a "a very competitive candidate" for governor, something echoed by political pundits.

"But L.A. is home and is such a tremendous platform from which to launch big things on jobs, infrastructure and more," Robb wrote in an email. He cited Measure M transportation projects, homelessness initiatives and airport and port investments as well as the rising Silicon Beach, home to hundreds of tech startups on greater Los Angeles' west side.
Meanwhile, there's currently no clear frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Garcetti could distinguish himself as an expert of urban policy in light of the fact that the vast majority of voters in the Democratic Party live in urban areas, Guerra said.
There are other factors that also distinguish Garcetti on a national level, he added. During his tenure, he's delivered not only the Summer Olympics in 2028 but two NFL teams and the World Series.
"It speaks to his ability to be able to negotiate and communicate the essence and positive position of Los Angeles," Guerra said.
A majority of local Los Angeles County residents polled earlier this summer said they are fine with Garcetti running for president, according to a recent Loyola Marymount University survey.
Nearly 63 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political post.
But whether the local support will translate to national support is not yet clear.
When asked about Garcetti's chances to be elected president, Guerra said the LA mayor probably has about a 5 percent chance at this point. But he argued "that's actually pretty good since "I don't think there's anybody else that has a 10 percent chance of winning right now."
While no U.S. president has been elected president while serving as mayor, the most recent presidential election has proven that Garcetti's chances could be just as good as the next potential candidate, he added.
"If we can elect someone like Donald Trump, we can elect anyone," Guerra said.
In a similar vein, Pitney noted that Garcetti has "very little" national recognition outside of California.
"Practically nobody knows who he is but that is true of most presidential candidates and that was true of (former U.S. President) Barack Obama in 2005," he said.

Armenian Weekly

ANCA Engages Officials In The US and Armenia With The Aim of Launching Non Stop Flights To Yerevan

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) is continuing its engagement with key government, business, and civil society stakeholders in both Armenia and the United States to establish non-stop flights between Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Zvartnots International Airport (EVN) in Yerevan, Armenia with a U.S. carrier.
"Direct travel from LAX to our sister city in Yerevan would bring new opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and family togetherness," LA Mayor Eric Garcetti told the ANCA (Photo: ANCA)
Zanku Armenian, who is leading the ANCA's effort and Zareh Sinanyan, Glendale, California City Council Member recently traveled to Yerevan to discuss with officials the practical steps necessary to establish this proposed flight route. Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek was also in Yerevan on an official visit at the same time, arranged by the ANCA Pasadena chapter. Tornek and Sinanyan serve together on the Burbank Hollywood Airport Commission, as President and Vice President, respectively. The meetings in Yerevan build on discussions ANCA officials had earlier this year with LAX CEO Deborah Flint.
Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of Armenian-Americans in the United States. This ambitious undertaking to establish a global direct link between Los Angeles and Yerevan comes at a time when LAX is going through a massive $14 billion dollar makeover, turning it into a world-class airport—while the Southern California region also prepares to host the Olympic Games in 2028. LAX is already the number one destination airport in the country, with more flights originating and ending there than any other airport.
"L.A. has strong and lasting bonds with the people of Armenia," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Direct travel from LAX to our sister city in Yerevan would bring new opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and family togetherness."
"We see an eagerness on the part of all officials to work with the ANCA to explore this creative initiative," said Armenian, "because linking the largest Armenian-American diaspora community in the United States with Armenia will boost tourism and business opportunities in both Los Angeles and Armenia."
In Yerevan, consultations began with the Chairman of the State Revenue Committee, Vardan Harutyunyan. He welcomed the positive economic impact this flight would have on both regions. In addition to pledging his support, Harutyunyan encouraged continued direct contacts with government officials in Yerevan, including helping to bring appropriate stakeholders in Armenia together to further evaluate the financial feasibility of this endeavor.
Discussions were also held with Sergey Avetisyan, Director General of Civil Aviation for Armenia. Avetisyan reiterated that establishing non-stop airline service with the U.S. has long been a goal, especially as passenger traffic to Yerevan continues to grow at a rapid pace year-over-year. Avetisyan acknowledged that all the technical pre-conditions already exist for Armenia to accept the type of large aircraft it would take to make such a long journey. This includes the Boeing 777 aircraft which currently already lands at Zvartnots Airport. Avetisyan also expressed confidence that any additional levels of security certification required by international and U.S. authorities to allow for non-stop flights between Armenia and the U.S. could easily be met, as Armenia already maintains a high degree of security at its airport in Yerevan.
Glendale City Councilman and Burbank Hollywood Airport Commission Member Zareh Sinanyan, Sergey Avetisyan,

Director General of Civil Aviation for Armenia and longtime ANCA leader Zanku Armenian in Yerevan discussing steps needed to establish a non-stop LAX-EVN flight (Photo: ANCA)

The group also met with Andranik Shkhyan, Deputy General Manager at Zvartnots International Airport, who was also enthusiastic about establishing non-stop US-Armenia airline service. He advised that he was also taking active steps to promote this effort by sharing relevant information with certain U.S. carriers. Shkhyan pledged to collaborate with the ANCA to further promote this non-stop flight goal within aviation circles to attract possible new airline service.

Lastly, a meeting was held with Zarmine Zeitountsian, Chairperson of the State Committee for Tourism, which is part of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia. Ms. Zeitountsian also welcomed the creation of non-stop airline service with the U.S. and offered the full support of her office in pursuing this effort, as it aligns with the Committee's mission to promote increased tourism to Armenia.

"This round of direct meetings with Armenian government officials in Yerevan was an important step in laying the groundwork for future steps that will need to be taken," said Zanku Armenian of the ANCA. "The next critical steps include the need for a detailed financial feasibility study and other economic impact studies that will be used in discussions with possible investors and U.S. carriers that could serve the new route," Armenian continued.

While the meetings were being held in Armenia, the ANCA also briefed members of the U.S. Congressional delegation that visited Armenia and Artsakh the following week. These and previous congressional briefings intend to secure support from various Members of Congress who can help with the appropriate U.S. federal agencies that would need to be involved in this process.

The ANCA plans to continue pursuing this bold initiative working with relevant government officials in the United States and Armenia. The ANCA's effort aims to ensure a methodical, integrated and professional approach between the government and private sectors that is necessary to attract the serious interest of U.S. carriers.

LA Times

Day of the Dead culture is getting pulled into Halloween's retail vortex

By James Peltz

As thousands prepared to head to Hollywood Forever Cemetery on Saturday for its 18th annual celebration of the Mexican tradition known as Dia de los Muertos, they had no shortage of places to shop.

Outfits adorned with images of colorful sugar skulls, skeletons and other traditional Day of the Dead symbols are available these days far beyond the small neighborhood stores that once had a lock on such things.

Target, Wal-Mart and other big retailers have plastered the theme on masks, paper plates and candle holders. There are Day of the Dead earrings and necklaces at Party City, costumes and headbands at Spirit Halloween stores and temporary tattoos and bed covers available at Etsy.com.

Merchandise capitalizing on the tradition had been spreading rapidly in the retail world in recent years, but this year it seems to be everywhere, even stamped on the California lottery's "Dia de los Muertos Scratchers."

With BridgeClimb Sydney, guests can ascend the southern arch of the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, seven days a week, night or day. The view from the bridge is breathtaking.

The Hollywood Forever Cemetery event was just one of 19 Day of the Dead festivitiesacross greater Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced on Twitter. Day of the Dead also is the underlying concept of a new Pixar animated movie, "Coco," that's being heavily marketed ahead of its Nov. 22 release.

Some point to another movie, 2015's James Bond film "Spectre," for helping propel the Day of the Dead momentum because it includes an elaborate Dia de los Muertos parade in Mexico City.

As a result, Day of the Dead — largely celebrated Nov. 1 and 2 — effectively has become rolled up into the Halloween retail juggernaut, unsettling some observers who see it as cultural appropriation that turns the centuries-old Day of the Dead remembrances into crass commercialism.

The melding together of Halloween and Day of the Dead is becoming more apparent.— Charlene Villaseñor Black, UCLA professor

Nearly 180 million Americans this year are expected to spend a record $9.1 billion on Halloween, a 32% surge from just two years ago, according to the National Retail Federation.

The trade group doesn't yet track Day of the Dead sales alone, but "we wouldn't be surprised if it becomes mainstream by next year, especially after movies like 'Coco' are released," federation spokeswoman Ana Serafin Smith said. "Movies influence what a lot of people want to dress up as on Halloween."

Day of the Dead merchandise "has been a popular style" for Party City since it began carrying the products three years ago, said Ryan Vero, president of Party City's retail division, which operates 900 U.S. outlets. "We even dedicated a section in our stores for this merchandise," he said.

Day of the Dead products are "dramatically more visible to me this year," said Charlene Villaseñor Black, a professor of Ibero American Art and Chicana/Chicano Studies at UCLA. "The melding together of Halloween and Day of the Dead is becoming more apparent."

The ever-growing Halloween retail phenomenon is even encroaching on Christmas turf. Some Halloween buffs are buying bright-orange fake Christmas trees from the likes of Treetopia of South San Francisco and adorning them with skulls, skeletons and candy to create Halloween trees.

The jump in Halloween spending not only is a bright spot for retailers but an offbeat economic indicator because its growth generally has tracked the economy's expansion and rising consumer confidence.

The National Retail Federation's spending survey, conducted with Prosper Insights and Analytics, showed that only

12.9% of respondents said current economic conditions would affect their Halloween spending this year. That figure was 32.1% six years ago, when the economic recovery was stumbling.

Holiday's popularity is growing

Dia de los Muertos goes back thousands of years. Much of the holiday is aimed at celebrating life along with remembering the dead.

The event traditionally consisted of family gatherings that often were held at the gravesites of the departed. Altars, or ofrendas, also were created in survivors' homes with photos and favorite objects of dead loved ones.

Day of the Dead's rising popularity in Southern California is seen as occurring in lockstep with the region's growing Latino population, a consumer segment the retail industry naturally wants to capture.

But there's been a backlash in some quarters.

A recent article on style website Bustle.com listed the Day of the Dead sugar-skull mask or face painting as one of eight costumes that "are actually racist, even if you might not realize it" unless one was raised in Mexican culture and observes Dia de los Muertos.

The website Latina.com listed Dia de los Muertos as one of seven things "Mexicans did before it was cool" and that the holiday "has become fodder for cultural-appropriating Americans."

Pixar parent Walt Disney Co. also ran into controversy as it developed plans for "Coco." Disney tried to trademark "Dia de los Muertos" in 2013 but withdrew the application after a public uproar that accused Disney of cultural insensitivity.

Certain universities also are urging students to avoid Halloween costumes in general that some might deem offensive because they reflect ethnic stereotypes or are culturally insensitive and disrespectful.

UCLA's Villaseñor Black said she too was "more conscious of the issue of appropriation" with Day of the Dead merchandise.

"I am wondering about the commercialization" of the tradition at the same time "Latinos and Mexicans are under fire, really, in the United States," she said, in part because of the heightened national dispute about immigration.

"There's a tension in my mind," she said.

It's not surprising that Day of the Dead merchandise sales would flow into the Halloween retail season because of the calendar, said Tricia Lacy, president of Beistle Co., a century-old Pennsylvania maker of decorations and party goods for retailers.

"There's no practical way to wait until Halloween" to buy Day of the Dead costumes and other goods "because they're celebrated one right after the other," she said. So retailers increasingly include Day of the Dead sections in their Halloween displays.

When Beistle started carrying Day of the Dead products more than a decade ago, it sold only four items. It now has more than 60 Dia de los Muertos products for sale, including masks and paper lanterns, "and we will have more next year," she said.

My News LA

Wedding cake same-sex bakery battle at US Supreme Court: LA backs gay couple

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Attorney's office helped write a brief submitted Monday to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a same-sex couple denied service by a Colorado bakerbecause of their sexual orientation.

The brief prepared by the city's lawyers, along with legal staff for Santa Clara County and New York City, was filed on behalf of 70 cities and counties and 80 mayors across the United States.

"Again we're taking a stand for LGBTQ equality and against discrimination that assaults citizens' dignity based on sexual orientation," Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said. "A business that denied service because of a customer's race or religion would be roundly condemned. Denying service based on sexual orientation deserves the same condemnation. The court should see this case for what it is — an attempt to subvert anti- discrimination laws that ensure equal treatment for all people."

The case dates back to 2012, when a couple — David Mullins and Charlie Craig — went to Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado, to order a cake for their wedding, but were denied service by owner Jack Phillips because they were a same-sex couple.

The brief, filed in Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, argues that the Supreme Court should reject Phillips' claim that he can refuse to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples because making a cake is an act of expression protected under the First Amendment.

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission ruled that the bakery had violated Colorado law by discriminating against Mullins and Craig. The bakery sought review of the ruling by the nation's highest court, which is scheduled to hear oral arguments on Dec. 5.

"Everyone deserves equal treatment under the law," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "The religious freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution should never be used as a cover for bigotry — and we cannot allow anyone to undermine protections that shield Americans from discrimination."

City Watch

Hepatitis Outbreak In LA: A Wake Up Call

By Julia Stein

On October 25, 2017, protestors from the Catholic Worker and the LA Community action Network entered Los Angeles City Hall carrying covered toilets protesting lack of hygiene among homeless who have an outbreak of hepatitis A. The protestors tried to deliver the toilets to Mayor Garcetti.

The Los Angeles Times reported October 26 that the City Hall Security Desk stopped the toilets saying because they were porcelain "and no glass was allowed in the City Hall." Skid Row residents wrote messages on the toilets and had previously brought the toilets to City Hall. Protestors also occupied 4th floor bathroom stalls where the City Hall council offices are located from 9:45 am-2:00 pm. protesting lack of toilets for the homeless.

Governor Brown has declared California's hepatitis A outbreak an emergency on October 13. Fourteen people have the disease in Los Angeles and 71 in Santa Cruz. In San Diego 19 have died from hepatitis, over 490 have the disease, and 351 people have been hospitalized in the deadliest outbreak of the disease in 20 years. Most of the victims in these three cities have been homeless who lacked 24-hour public restrooms and hand washing facilities. Since hepatitis A can have a 15-to-50 day incubation period, people unaware they are infected can spread the disease through food or water contaminated by fecal matter or lack of hand washing. The LA Times said in "LA's hepatitis A outbreak" that "the existence of even a handful of cases among people who live closely together, often share food and utensils, and cannot easily track their contacts is a blueprint for a potentially massive outbreak."

In downtown Los Angeles Skid Row the city has only nine toilets for 1,800 people at night. 61,000 homeless are in the LA area with many living in tents along the Los Angeles River or under freeway underpasses have nowhere to wash their hands in the city and county. The demonstrators have asked for 164 toilets and wash stations for Skid Row to bring the area up to hygiene standards that the United Nations "sets for Syrian refugees." Ruben Martin Garcia, who lived on Skid Row for 24 years, said, "We're not asking for gold toilets with diamonds and emeralds. We're just asking for some … toilets."

City officials had promised to put up 10 more toilets in Skid Row by mid-September but by September 17th the toilets weren't installed. The city then said by mid-October they would install a mobile "hygiene center" for Skid Row on a city-owned parking lot with toilets, washing stations, showers, and half a dozen stacked washers and dryers but didn't. Councilman Jose Huizar, whose district includes Skid Row, and Mayor Garcetti's spokesman Alex Comisar both said they are working on getting new toilet facilities for Skid Row. The City Council has a discussion on the issue for October 27, 2017, on how to bring emergency portable toilets to the homeless. Councilmen Huizar, Mike Bonin, and Marqueece Harris-Dawson have agreed on a motion that in two weeks staff should report on portable toilets. Jed Poole, supervising coordinator at the Catholic Worker said, "The number [of people] on Skid Row … deserves human dignity and human rights. They deserve to not have to piss and shit on a sidewalk, and then have to be criminalized for it."

LA City Council Mike Bonin secured funding to have public restrooms open 24-hours a day near Venice Beach, but the City hasn't used the money yet. Bonin, who has worked for months on increasing restrooms for the homeless, asked the City Council to fund emergency portable toilets on Venice Beach and a mobile toilet-and-sink program like San Francisco's. "The current situation is neither tolerable nor humane, and it is a risk to public health," Bonin said

Hand washing or vaccinations are ways to stop the spread of the disease. LA's Department of Public Health Los Angeles has started a vaccination program in homeless shelters, community clinics, service providers, and on the streets. Though persuading the homeless to get vaccinated is difficult.

The first week 1,200 people had been vaccinated, but that leaves 50,000 more people—drug users, the homeless, medical providers, jail inmates-- to vaccinate.

The hepatitis outbreak in California shows how lack of decent housing endangers public health. The first modern study of hookworm the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston showed hookworm, caused by lack of sewage treatment, is very common in Lowndes County, Alabama, which is 75% African-American and very poor. In Lowndes, the average income is $18,046 a year, and elementary waste disposal sanitation is "often non-existent." 34% of the people in a new study tested positive for hookworm.

Scientists once thought that hookworm, a disease associated with dire poverty, was prevalent during in the 19th and the early 20th century among both blacks and whites in the South, but had died out by the 1980s. The hookworm parasite, after entering the body, can after months or years cause iron deficiency and anemia, weight loss, tiredness, and impaired mental function so that children do poorly in school and become impoverished adults. Civil rights protestors led by Martin Luther King in 1965 marched through Lowndes County from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for voting right for blacks, but voting rights have not improved the poor sanitation.

The Guardian describes how in Lowndes County children are "playing feet away from open pools of raw sewage; drinking water pumped beside cracked pipes of untreated waste …. " The Baylor study found that 73% of the residents in the study have been exposed to "raw sewage washing back into their homes as a result of faulty septic tanks or waste pipes becoming overwhelmed in torrential rains." Anthony Thigpen, a community activist, said his cousins who live in a trailer park with bad sewage pipes say they are disgusted by it but "there's no public help for them here and if you're earning $700 a month there's no way you can afford your own private sanitation." 80% of Lowndes County is not covered by any municipal system. Most blacks in Lowndes Country are much too poor to upgrade their septic tanks. Catherine Flowers, founder of Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise (ACRE), a non-profit that uncovers the root causes of poverty in rural Alabama, says, "Our billionaire philanthropists like Bill Gates fund water treatment around the world, but they don't fund it here in the US because no one acknowledges that this level of poverty exists in the richest nation of the world." Scientists from Houston who did the first study want now to conduct a larger study, and estimate as many as 12 million people in the U.S. could have neglected tropical diseases in the South and the Midwest. Dr. Peter Hotez,

dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, told the Guardian that the study's results were a "wake-up cail to the nation."
The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) in October, 2016, also had a study that reported that bad housing causes many health problems. Metro USA New York reported that the NYAM study cited how in East Harlem, a very poor neighborhood, residents since 2011 have lost 2,000 units of affordable housing and estimates predict they will lose 6,000 more units in the next 10 years. Lacking housing they could afford, residents have increased homelessness and their health suffers: they have "high rates of hypertension, diabetes, asthma, infant mortality, drug addiction, and mental issues."
A lead author of the NYAM report Kimberly Libran said that the report's findings could apply to other communities in New York City as well as other cities. Holly Slaton is one such tenant who reports that tenants in her building experienced months of loud, hazardous construction that left many sick: "My daughter and I suffered months of respiratory infections, where our doctor told us to wear a dust mask in our own home. A woman downstairs report having her eye swollen shut as a result from a sinus infection which we also believe was caused by the dust we were forced to breathe in our own homes."
Brandon Kielbasa of Cooper Square Committee, which advocates for affordable housing, says that tenants in gentrifying neighborhoods face both unhealthy housing and intense psychological turmoil: "The physical act of converting affordable housing to luxury brings with it an unhealthy, unsafe, and often toxic environment for tenants."
The connection between bad housing and bad health has been known for over a hundred fifty years. In the 19th century as huge populations in both Britain and the United States poured into the newly industrializing cities, communal wells provided water and few cities had facilities that removed sewage. The poor lived in cramped tenements where infectious disease spread: epidemics of cholera, small pox, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever occurred regularly. In England Dr. John Snow discovered in 1854 how a cholera epidemic was spread by polluted water. The Public Health Act in 1875 in England made local cities provide sewage disposal facilities and clean water for all. Also in many U.S. cities public health officials installed sewers and hygienic water systems and death rates fell drastically.
In Los Angeles KCET TV did a story "Addressing South L.A's Slum Housing and Indoor Air Pollution" where Lizzeth Henao Rosales reported that South Los Angeles, which is largely black and Latino, has 69% renters in some of the oldest housing in the city.
Vilma Marroquin lived in a building in South Los Angeles owned by a notorious slumlord William Little. The building has "a severe pest infestation, including cockroaches and bedbugs, crumbling walls, and leaking plumbing." The landlord's use of toxic pesticides caused Marroquin's two children to have severe health problems needing multiple visits to the emergency room: once her son "stopped breathing a day after her unit had been fumigated."
Marroquin became a tenant leader in Strategic Action for a Just Economy's campaign for healthy housing which advocates use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that requires "significant repairs to the crumbling infrastructure and a holistic view of the building as one unit." Marroquin filed complaints with City of Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department as well as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Her physician wrote letters for her two children demanding the landlord stop using toxic chemicals. Her landlord started using non-toxic pesticides and patched some holes in her apartment, but not for other apartments, so the building still has a severe pest infestation.
The World Health Organization by 2017 has said that adequate housing should protect against communicable diseases; protect against injury, poisoning and chronic diseases; and reduce psychological stress to a minimum. Currently some of the major health problems in the U .S. from poor housing are water seeping into a home and poor ventilation that increase moisture leading to pests—cockroaches, rats, and mice-- and to mold—two known triggers of allergies and asthma. High lead levels from housing with very old lead pipes results in learning disabilities, neurological problems, and even death. Aging and poorly built homes also increase risk for chronic respiratory infections. Poor cooling in homes during heat waves can lead to the elderly having heat exhaustion and death from heat stroke while poor heating during winter helps facilitate diseases. Inner city neighborhoods that are food deserts lacking grocery stores with healthy fruits and vegetables lead to higher rates of obesity and its diseases than in wealthier neighborhoods with grocery stores.
As the nation's housing crises worsens with less affordable housing, then corresponding health problems will also increase among the homeless and among population forced to double or triple up—seven people living in a one-bedroom apartment, for example—increasing the spread of disease. The recent epidemic of hepatitis A in San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz as well as the National School of Tropical Medical at Baylor Medical School's recent study of hookworm among the poor blacks in Lowndes County, Alabama, are indeed wake up calls to the nation.

City Watch

I'm A Pit Bull! I'm Not A Pit Bull! LA Animal service Playing Games With Breed ID Labels!

By Phyllis Daugherty
At its Tuesday night meeting, Oct. 24, the Los Angeles Animal Services' Commission, appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, approved General Manager Brenda Barnette's report requesting removal of all dog-breed ID labels from kennel cards in the interests of "transparency," because she and the City shelter staff "really don't know the breed of the dogs."
This policy was promoted by Commissioners Layne Dicker and Roger Wolfson, both attorneys. Barnette cites a study by the makers of DNA tests which found, "The presence of a breed's signature does not guarantee that the dog will

look like the specific detected breed..." Thus, following this theory, many of the "Pit Bulls" that are touted as great pets may not really be Pit Bulls.
GM Barnett summarized her report, saying, "We believe that we have an ethical responsibility to be honest with the community by not providing them with false information about, and creating false expectations of, the dog they are adopting. To do that we propose eliminating breed labels on our cage cards, online profiles and anywhere that breed labels have previously been used."
If anyone doubts that this move toward "honesty "is a subterfuge to place Pit Bulls with adopters who do not want, or fear, the breed, here was just one of the GM's comments at the meeting:
"We need to get with the veterinary community and educate them on what we are doing. One of the most damning things that can happen is for a vet to say, "Oh, my God, you got a Pit Bull, when they really don't know any more than we do."
The public will be told that, rather than relying on breed identification which might not be accurate, they should focus on the specific dog. There was no acknowledgement of the lack of sophistication in choosing an appropriate pet by many shelter adopters.
Barnette explained that, rather than speculating on breed, the test of behavior of a dog is determined by putting it in an area with a family or in a play group to find out how it reacts. She added, "People often ask me, 'How is this dog with children,' and I say, "I don't know, but bring your child over and we can do an introduction, and we'll be careful."
Commissioner Roger Wolfson questioned--but quickly ignored his own concerns--that the Department does not have the resources or personnel to institute such a drastic change.
For those enticed to discover the love of an "experienced" and loving pet as it cuddles up to a TV news anchor, media will no longer be identifying any LAAS by breed nor speculating on possible breed. This policy change will also stop "breed rescue" from Los Angeles shelters, because it is discriminatory for some dogs to be singled out as purebreds.
"Instead of focusing on how to get more of these pit bulls adopted...we should be focused on reducing the number of pit bulls that need to be adopted," writes J. Thomas Beasley.
BE AWARE THAT THIS POLICY APPLIES ONLY TO LA CITY ANIMAL SERVICES AND NONE OF THE OTHER LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS
WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS?
A Best Friends Animal Society webpage (Removing Breed Labels from Adoptable Pets) states, "Thanks to Maddie's Fund, Best Friends is working on a study within our own adoption centers in Los Angeles and with some of our valued partners, including Pima County, Arizona."
Barnette explained the theory derives from the research of one doctoral student at Arizona University who found that people reacted differently to breed-associated dogs in photos. However, in reviewing that research, Lisa Gunter, who spoke at the meeting, was cautious in concluding any notable increase in adoptions at the Florida shelter where this experiment was implemented and studied, stating that, the slight gains seen could also have been influenced by changes in shelter hours and adoption incentives.
Elizabeth Oreck, National Manager for Best Friends Animal Society Puppy Mill Initiatives, commented about mistakes in breed identification online, elaborating, "This obsession with breed is a thorn in my side. It is the reason that puppy mills are doing what they are doing and the reason people are getting what they think they want and not getting what they should want and what we can provide to them. So, instead of trying to meet the demands for what people want, which is generally purebreds, we should be making them want what we have already, so that we don't have to make more of these breeds. We are able to provide what already exists so that we can stop killing what already exists."
BREED ID IS REQUIRED FOR LICENSING AND INSURANCE
Insurance
Farmers' Insurance agent Michael Gonzales advises that the way the insurance industry would handle this is to just not cover any damaging acts by the dog, because all policies require that the breed and bite history of all insured dogs is provided.
Licensing
Barnette has not addressed the fact that LAAS is required to issue a license to every dog over four months which is adopted from the shelter. The State requires a breed to be listed. She did not say how this will be handled. One of the department's prime public health and safety responsibilities is to issue dog licenses for every dog in the City to verify rabies vaccination.
Barnette stated she had looked at some rabies certificates from veterinarians and they listed the breed as "mixed" and that had not stopped processing. However, she did not say whether she actually looked at the associated license to see if the Department or the pet owner had identified the breed before issuance.
The California Department of Public Health's website sets the NASPHV Rabies Certificate as a model to use, and it asks for the predominant breed. It also lists the rabies codes and regulations. The certificate calls for a description of the dog "including breed, color, age, and sex.
In addition, the CA Food and Agricultural Code. Chapter 3. Dog Tags, reads, § 30802. Application. Each application for a dog license tag shall state the age, sex, color, and breed of the dog for which the license is desired and the address of the owner.
Certain breeds are commonly not allowed under some insurance policies or rental agreements. The staff will no longer be free to share with potential adopters whether it may be one of those breeds, according to Barnette.
Commission President Larry Gross pressed Barnette for assurance that renters would not be in danger of taking home a pet that could cause them to be evicted, but she managed to sidestep this issue by referring to providing the weight

of the dog.
WILL LA CITY SHELTERS INCREASE LIABILITY / RETURNS?
Historically, LA city and other shelter staff provide their "best-guess" estimate of the breed(s) of unwanted, homeless dogs. Sometimes they are wrong, but it is not a deliberate attempt to deceive the public. As they become more familiar with the dog, they often make corrections in the breed assessment, based on what they observe -- positive or negative -- and include any identifiable traits observed that are genetically programmed into certain breeds.
Some dogs exhibit aggressive or fearful behavior, bite or attempt to attack other dogs or cats while impounded, and the staff has. in the past, been able to advise the public that it may need a "special" home, supervision in certain situations, or recommend that it not be adopted where there are children or other pets. Under the proposed policy, that will not be allowed because it would indicate "negative" behavior.
Brenda Barnette personally released a dangerous dog, named Sodom, with a history of attacks.
This entire discussion by the Commissioners and Barnette did not include the safety of pet and families.
ATTORNEY'S OPINION
Jeffrey Zinder, Senior Partner at the Mission Hills law firm of Zinder, Koch & McBratney, opined,
The public relies on the apparent expertise and knowledge of its officials, including those involved with its shelters. The fact that breed-specific descriptions appear in residential leases and insurance policies requires that information is not withheld or misrepresented. After an attack you can be assured that the insurance adjuster will require a DNA test and that result along with the general appearance of the dog may have disastrous consequences for the person who "adopted/rescued" the animal. Regardless of any PC label, once in your possession you are the owner and liable for its conduct.
This is one of the most absurd steps being proposed in an effort to empty the shelters regardless of impact on public safety.
ADOPTERS' ACCESS TO PAST HISTORY
Barnette describes one change in her Oct. 17 report which differs from the original plan:
"If an owner surrenders a dog and believes that s/he knows what breed the dog is, it will be listed in the notes along with all other information, such as behavior history, that we input. That, as all information will be shared with an interested possible adopter or rescue partner."
(That is an improvement, but does it pertain to ALL dogs impounded or just to surrenders?)
"Notes" are those comments entered by the veterinarian regarding vaccines, weight, health issues etc. They do not contain behavior history, other than whether the examining vet can "handle the dog."
"Behavior memos," which are shared internally among employees and volunteers are separate and must also be made available to potential adopters. That policy must be put into a written form provided to them before the adoption process and be a posted policy so potential adopters know to ask for them--if Barnette's intention is truly "transparency" and full disclosre.
BRENDA BARNETTE'S DISAVOWAL OF BREEDS
It is difficult to take seriously Brenda Barnette's disavowal of the ability to identify breed characteristics in dogs, considering she was an AKC representative and dog breeder (along with her daughter, Mary Alice Davis, an employee of Best Friends). She was listed showing her Poodle in Seattle in 2009 at the Gavilan Kennel Club and in May 2010 at a BaRay Event. She was hired as GM of L.A. Animal Services in June 2010--one month later--and formally began her duties in September 2010.
My 2013 article, Brenda Barnette's Daughter is a 'Responsible' Dog Breeder, Says Best Friends' L.A. Director, discusses the disclosure by Daniel Guss of a dog show roster dated May 23, 2013, in which Brenda Barnette and her daughter Mary Alice Davis are listed as "owners" in several competitions at the Southern California Portuguese Water Dog Club, under the listing for "Puppy Bitches:" 9 months and under 12 months, (8) CUTWATER IT HAD TO BE YOU, WS43376901. 05/29/2012.
Marc Peralta, Executive Director of Best Friends LA, wrote in an e-mail to Daniel Guss on Oct. 13, 2013, "Mary Alice falls into the category of responsible breeders."
COUNCILMAN PAUL KORETZ' OFFER REJECTED
Jim Bickhart, representing Councilmember Koretz, spoke at the meeting and pointed out, "I am not hearing any discussion that relates to whether this results in a higher percentage of successful adoptions -- where the animals don't come back to the shelter?"
He advised the Commission that Councilman Koretz would be willing to entertain the Commission forwarding its final decision and background information to the City Council so it could be referred to the PAW Committee for further review and a hearing held on it, with recommendations sent back, if they make a decision. He emphasized "that doesn't--in a legal sense--take away from your policy-making role--but could be included in your instruction to the Department, or not."
Commissioner Wolfson moved NOT to refer this Item to Councilman Koretz. It was seconded by Commissioner Dicker. The Commission resoundingly approved the motion.

Curbed

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park

By Bianca Barragan
Studio-MLA (formerly Mia Lehrer and Associates), Gruen Associates, and Psomas were tapped last year to help create

a 12-mile bike path along the Los Angeles River that would connect Canoga Park with Griffith Park. We're getting a sneak peek at what that greenway project could bring to the river's banks.
Studio-MLA designed "river-front trails, bikeways, greenways, pocket parks, habitat areas, and urban runoff treatment facilities" along the river from Vanalden Avenue to Forest Lawn/Zoo Drive to the east by "converting existing maintenance roads into a continuous greenway and designing bridge and road crossings where the trail meets streets, freeways and rail lines," says a statement from Studio MLA.
The project was highlighted in the summer of 2016, when Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the design team, as well as a wave of funding for the project from his office.
"This bikeway will give all Angelenos a new way to experience our city, build accessibility to our revitalized river, and expand green space for families to enjoy," Garcetti said last summer.
Community workshops are underway now, with a final feasibility study due out in early 2018, Mary Nemick, spokesperson for the city's engineering bureau, tells Curbed. Construction is estimated to begin in 2020.
Funding also comes from the offices of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and City Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez, and David Ryu. The city's Department of Recreation and Parks is another partner on the project.

News Deeply

Could A Simpler Delta Tunnel Solve Years Of California Water Conflict?

By Matt Weiser
CALIFORNIA'S AMBITIOUS PLAN to build two giant water tunnels under the West's largest estuary has been deemed too expensive by some of the water utilities that would have to pay for it. As a result, attention is turning back to a cheaper option: One tunnel instead of two.
On October 17, the board of directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District unanimously rejected the $17 billion twin-tunnel project, known as WaterFix, and instead expressed support for a smaller, single-tunnel alternative. The district serves more than 1 million people in Silicon Valley.
A single tunnel was also recently endorsed by Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, who represents a big share of the urban customers who would help pay for it. And the Public Policy Institute of California, a prominent think-tank, came out in support of the idea last year.
Ironically, it is an option the state's top water agencies rejected out of hand a decade ago. This occurred even though environmental groups actually supported it and encouraged the state Department of Water Resources and its water contractors to investigate a single tunnel, which could save nearly $8 billion.
What's even more striking is that a single tunnel was first proposed not by environmental groups dabbling around the edges of the water industry. It came from an expert at another Bay Area water utility with lots of experience building big water projects.
"We told them back in 2007 that the right thing to do was build one tunnel, and see if it works," said Greg Gartrell, who was then assistant general manager at Contra Costa Water District and is now retired. "If you need two tunnels later on, do that. But if you do two tunnels right up front, you're basically stranding an asset. Half your investment is doing nothing for you."
State officials looked at a single-tunnel option in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as one of more than a dozen alternatives for their WaterFix project. The route, shown here, includes a single 3,000cfs tunnel and one intake on the Sacramento River, near Clarksburg. (Image courtesy California Department of Water Resources)
Gartrell said that is because the state's own analysis of the tunnel concept shows water yield from the project doesn't increase much, no matter how big the tunnels are. One reason is that, very often, the flow in the Sacramento River restricts how much water can be diverted into the tunnels.
For obvious reasons, the project would never be allowed to divert so much water that it would dry up the Sacramento River. This resulted in a basic ground rule stating that no water can be diverted into the tunnels until river flows reach about 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Such flows generally occur only during winter and spring. Even then, only minimal diversions are allowed until river flows ramp up much higher.
As a result, Gartrell said, river conditions allowing the dual tunnels to operate at their full 9,000cfs capacity would exist only about 7 percent of the time.
In contrast, a single tunnel sized at 3,000cfs would be able to operate at full capacity much more often. On balance, it would fall just a few hundred thousand acre-feet short of matching the total annual water diversions of the dual tunnels, Gartrell said.
The state's own analysis in 2013 showed that a single-tunnel project sized at 3,000cfs would deliver only 10 percent less water annually.
That's not a significant loss, he said, from a project expected to deliver more than 4 million acre-feet annually. And the $8 billion saved could be spent on other water projects that would more than make up the difference.
The $17 billion dual-tunnel project is intended to create a bypass for freshwater exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an estuary that provides freshwater for 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland.
For decades, this water has been diverted using massive pumps at the southern edge of the South Delta, near the town of Tracy. The pumps kill millions of native fish and are powerful enough to reverse the Delta's natural river flows, disrupting habitat and causing water quality problems.
The tunnels would switch diversions to a location 40 miles upstream on the Sacramento River. This would prevent the

reverse-flow conditions and, with modern fish screens in place, would reduce the fish kill.
Gartrell's single-tunnel idea was subsequently embraced by a number of environmental groups as a promising solution to the Delta's troubles.
In 2010, the Planning and Conservation League released a package of eight water solutions for California that included a single Delta tunnel.
Then in 2013, the Natural Resources Defense Council released its so-called portfolio-based alternative, which supported a single Delta tunnel along with numerous regional water-supply projects.
Russell van Loben Sels is a longtime Delta farmer who opposes California's WaterFix proposal, which includes building one of three intakes on farmland he owns near Courtland. Support has grown for single-tunnel option, which would require just one intake. (Randall Benton, Sacramento Bee)
If the state had chosen to pursue a single tunnel years ago, said NRDCattorney Doug Obegi, it's likely construction could have been well underway by now given its smaller size and fewer logistical and environmental complications.
"It does seem like a missed opportunity," Obegi said. "We've wasted significant time and millions of dollars studying this larger project that doesn't make sense economically or ecologically."
The question now is, what would be required now to embrace a single tunnel as a serious alternative?
The state did include a single tunnel (known as alternatives 5 and 5A) among its formal alternatives in the final environmental impact study adopted in December 2016. This alternative called for a single intake on the Sacramento River and a single tunnel with a capacity of 3,000cfs. This single tunnel would follow the same approximate route under the Delta as the dual-tunnel project.
The state estimated in 2013 this single-tunnel alternative would cost $8.6billion – about $8 billion less than the dual tunnels.
Officials at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have said they are open to considering a single tunnel. The district is the largest water agency to support the more costly dual-tunnel project so far.
"We're always willing to talk about it," Roger Patterson, Met's assistant general manager, told Water Deeply in December. "I get it: In order to get something done, you gotta do horse trading. But it also still has to work."
It is unclear if the single-tunnel alternative was investigated sufficiently by the state to become its new project choice. Obegi said it was not, and much deeper analysis will likely be required.
"How it would be operated is really the most important thing in determining whether this is something that would be OK for the environment or would be detrimental for the Delta," he said. "There's very little to nothing that has been said about how they would operate a smaller facility."
Such details may be moot, because the state Department of Water Resources is still officially wedded to the $17 billion dual-tunnel project, said spokeswoman Erin Mellon.
"DWR is continuing to advance WaterFix as it is currently structured: A two-tunnel project with three intakes with a combined capacity of 9,000 cfs," she said.

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park
https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16578110/la-river-bike-path-canoga-park-studio-city

Inflatable dams and a water wheel: Latest plan to revitalize the LA River
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Gehry says transformation of LA River into a green oasis will never happen
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Economic Development:

$54 Million Hollywood Development Breaks Ground
https://www.multihousingnews.com/post/54m-hollywood-development-breaks-ground/

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Harvard-Westlake Shelves Controversial Parking Lot/ Sky Bridge On Hold And Acquires Nearby Golf Course
http://laist.com/2017/10/30/harvard_westlake_parking.php

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Harvard Westlake buying 16 acres of LA river adjacent land in Studio City
https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16573952/harvard-westlake-parking-la-river

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LA Unified says PUC Schools should have unearthed alleged Rodriguez conflict three years ago
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Homelessness & Poverty:

They approve portable toilet system for homeless people
https://laopinion.com/2017/10/30/aprueban-sistema-de-banos-portatiles-para-personas-desamparadas/

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Rising Rent Burden In Los Angeles
https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising/rising-rent-burden-in-los-angeles

Condo prices are skyrocketing in Downtown LA
https://la.curbed.com/2017/10/30/16572074/downtown-la-condo-cost-home-sales

Alert! Eviction Ball Ready To Crush More Than 150 Hollywood Hills Tenants...Time Running Out
http://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/neighborhood-politics-hidden/327-nc-politics/14284-alert-eviction-ball-ready-to-crush-more-than-150-hollywood-hills-tenents-time-running-out

Another seven story condo project planned for Koreatown
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California's Fear Of High Rise Living Is Blocking Our View Of The Future
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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 8:08 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Seriously Considering 2020 Presidential Run
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Garcetti, possible 2020 hopeful, launches innovation group

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TMZ

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Seriously Considering 2020 Presidential Run

Eric Garcetti, the enormously popular Mayor of Los Angeles, is "seriously considering" throwing his hat in the ring for the 2020 Presidential race ... multiple sources connected to Garcetti tell TMZ.

Garcetti just announced he's not going to run for Governor of California, and our sources say that clears the deck for an even bigger race.

One Garcetti confidante told us to look at the Mayor's travel schedule, and it is interesting. Over the past 12 months he spent 112 days outside California and since May he's been out of state for 51 days.

Garcetti is a die-hard democrat who has increasingly gained stature in the party. Our sources say a Presidential run is a "frequent discussion" among his staff.

Garcetti has made a difference in L.A. like few mayors have with various initiatives ... the crown jewel was snagging the Olympics for 2028.

For his part, Garcetti tweeted over the weekend, "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles." At the same time, Garcetti has said when it comes to politics, "All the rules are off" ... the takeaway there is you don't have to be a U.S. Senator or Governor in order to run for President.

Politico

Garcetti, possible 2020 hopeful, launches innovation group

By Edward Isaac Dovere

Prospective presidential candidates tend to launch PACs to pump money into campaigns of people who might prove helpful. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is starting a nonprofit with other mayors, union leaders and business executives to fund what they call innovation investments around the country.

Called Accelerator for America, the group will hold its first meeting Nov. 7 and 8 in South Bend, Indiana, timed to coincide with the anniversary of last year's election. The second meeting is already booked for February, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Garcetti announced on Sunday that, as expected, he wouldn't run for governor of California in 2018, writing on Twitter, "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles." But skipping a statewide run now clears him to continue his exploration of national politics — reelected earlier this year, his second term will now last five and a half years due to a change in the election schedule, through 2022.

The mission of Accelerator for America is to provide strategic and educational support in cities, counties and states where there are ballot initiatives for infrastructure funding. Leaders of the group will also look to invest directly in existing organizations that promote jobs and skills training that they believe can be scaled out around the country.

They begin with $1 million in funding, half of which comes from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. More money is expected.

Garcetti, who'll be chairing the council, said the inspiration for it came from the success of last year's Proposition M in Los Angeles, which authorized $120 billion for infrastructure investment over the next decade. Its passage contrasted with the failure of the Trump administration to provide any details — let alone launch a legislative push — for its promised $1 trillion infrastructure plan.

"America's cities are here, with all due respect, to help save D.C.," Garcetti said. "We've all seen so many panels and plans and promises, but what we're missing is quick action."

On the stump, Garcetti has used a line about wanting "a Democratic voice in local politics, a local voice in Democratic politics," and he says, "I realized the same thing could be said in a nonpartisan way—a local voice in national politics, a national voice in local politics."

Garcetti said he plans to open November's meeting by listing three objectives: "helping Americans build their future," "helping Americans find their dreams," and "helping Americans live well."

When it's pointed out to him that this sounds like presidential rhetoric —especially in the context of a politician who this year has given a speech in the swing state of Wisconsin, spent a day campaigning in New Hampshire and made frequent appearances at national Democratic events —he said, "I hope it's not my platform—I hope it's a platform for local leaders."

Garcetti, whose jobs group will happen to take him to Indiana and South Carolina, added, "I'm certainly not waiting for the next presidential election to get started."

Longtime Garcetti aide Rick Jacobs will serve as CEO of the group, which is in the process of being incorporated as a 501(c)3.

Each member of the advisory council is being asked to make three suggestions for initiatives to back, and they'll look to take applications as the group develops.

"The more we can do to link up the capital and expertise that's on the coasts with the needs in the middle of the country, the better," said South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who helped develop the concept for Accelerator for America with Garcetti following conversations at meetings of the U.S. Conference of Mayors over the summer.

United Brotherhood of Carpenters general president Doug McCarron pointed out that Proposition M is expected to create 465,000 jobs over 40 years.

"We take that show on the road and we show different cities and counties what can be achieved locally," McCarron said. "There's got to be an uprising of spirit at the local level. It's really easy to point fingers at Washington."

The other advisory council members are: Nashville, Tennessee Mayor Megan Barry; Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Steve Benjamin; Dayton, Ohio Mayor Nan Whaley; Washington State Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib; International Union of Operating Engineers general president James Callahan; Echoing Green president Cheryl Dorsey; Dollar Shave Club founder & CEO Michael Dubin; PolicyLink CEO Angela Glover Blackwell; Incite.org CEO Swati Mylavarapu; Social Capital Founder and CEO Chamath Palihapitiya; and HNTB president and CEO Rob Slimp.

All the elected officials involved so far are Democrats, though the group does expect to add Republicans to its advisory council.

Newsmax

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti Starting Nonprofit For Investing In Innovation

By Joe Crowe

Eric Garcetti, the Democratic mayor of Los Angeles is working with other mayors, union leaders, and business executives to launch Accelerator for America, a nonprofit for funding innovation around the U.S., according to Politico.

Accelerator for America's mission is to support strategic and educational support in areas where there are initiatives for infrastructure funding on the ballots. Leaders will put investments directly in existing organizations that promote jobs and skills training, Politico's report said.

Garcetti, who will be chairman of the group, said the group's inspiration came from Proposition M in Los Angeles that authorized $120 billion in investment in infrastructure over the next decade. Proposition M's passage contrasted with President Donald Trump's administration's failure to launch its promised $1 trillion infrastructure plan, Politico reported.

"America's cities are here, with all due respect, to help save D.C. We've all seen so many panels and plans and promises, but what we're missing is quick action," Garcetti said, according to Politico.
Garcetti said he wants "a local voice in national politics, a national voice in local politics."
The group begins with funding of $1 million — half of that provided by United Brotherhood of Carpenters. More funding is expected, Politico's report said.
The group's first meeting will be Nov. 7 and 8, coinciding with the anniversary of the 2016 presidential election. Garcetti said he would open the meeting with three objectives: "helping Americans build their future," "helping Americans find their dreams," and "helping Americans live well."
"I hope it's not my platform — I hope it's a platform for local leaders… I'm certainly not waiting for the next presidential election to get started," Garcetti said when it was noted that the comment sounds like a presidential candidate's rhetoric, according to Politico.
All the officials in the group so far are Democrats, but the group expects to add Republicans to its advisers, Politico reported.

LAist

Mayor Garcetti Says He Won't Be Running For Governor Of California

By Annie Lloyd
Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Sunday that he will not be running for governor of California, ending speculation he would try to replace Governor Jerry Brown in the 2018 election.
If he were to enter race, he would be campaigning against former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. Instead, he will remain in Los Angeles to "best build on our progress here in L.A.."
Garcetti won his second term as mayor by a landslide back in March. He was sworn in in July, so he's only a few months in to his second term, which will last five and a half years due to a one-time change in the election year.
His decision not to run for governor doesn't mean he won't look for a presidential run in 2020. While he and his camp have kept mum on the matter, we've noted that he's visited multipleswing states and had a meet-and-greet with billionaire donor Ronald Perelman. He also spoke to a TV reporter in Wisconsin back in June, saying, "I think all the rules are off," according to the L.A. Times. "No African American could be president until one was. No reality star could be president until one is," he said. We'll fill in the next sentence: no Los Angeles Mayor could be president until Garcetti is.

KPCC

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

By Associated Press
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.
Garcetti tweeted his decision Sunday, saying he wants to continue to serve in Los Angeles because he's passionate about his city and family.
The 46-year-old decisively won a second four-year term in March. He can't run for a third under LA term limits.
Some political observers have speculated the Democrat may be eyeing a presidential bid in 2020.
Several people are hoping to replace Gov. Jerry Brown when his second term ends next year. The leading candidates are Republican businessman John Cox, Assemblyman Travis Allen, Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, and ex-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

ABC News

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says no to run for governor

By Associated Press
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti says he will not run for governor of California.
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La Opinion

Mayor Garcetti will not run as California governor

Eric Garcetti, mayor of the city of Los Angeles, announced on Sunday that he will not run to replace Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018.
"We still have a lot to do to build a stronger city, state and nation," said Garcetti, through a tweet. "I know I can grow the success we've had here in Los Angeles," he added.

Speculation about the political aspirations of the mayor of Los Angeles increased in recent months, during which Garcetti traveled to several states of the country and refused to deny the rumors.
However, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa, former mayor of Los Angeles , recently announced his cadidacy, and this may have affected his decision. As the Los Angeles Times points out , the abovementioned, as well as Treasurer John Chiang, share taxpayers. Even the Villaraigosa campaign will be backed by Latino and Angeleno voters, two sectors to which Garcetti would have also gone.
Due to a change in election dates, Garcetti will serve as mayor until 2022 . According to a report in The New York Times , some Democratic contributors urge him to consider the presidency in 2020 .

Daily Breeze

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti won't run for governor but what WILL he run for?

By Brenda Gazzar
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has ruled out running for California governor in 2018 heightening speculation that he may seriously test the U.S. presidential waters.
"I have decided not to run for Governor of California," the 46-year-old Garcetti tweeted on his personal account Sunday. "I am passionate about my city and my family; both are here in Los Angeles."
Garcetti, who is serving his second term as mayor, said much work remains to build a "stronger city, state and nation."
"And I know I can best build on our progress here in LA," he wrote.
The decision makes sense if Garcetti wants to run for president because he can now spend a good part of 2018 campaigning in states like New Hampshire and Iowa instead of in California cities like Glendale and Fresno, said John "Jack" J. Pitney Jr., a professor of government and politics at Claremont McKenna College.
"The gubernatorial campaign would use up enormous amounts of time and resources," Pitney said. "This step preserves the option of running for president. He may not decide to jump off that board, but at least he can still plausibly make that decision."
The announcement does not come as a surprise given that there are already three prominent progressive Democrats running for governor — Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Treasurer John Chiang, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Democrat Delaine Eastin, former superintendent of public instruction, is also among those vying for the governor's seat.
It would have been difficult for Garcetti to distinguish himself from the gubernatorial field not only in policy but in position, he said. Both Newsom and Villaraigosa are former mayors. In addition, Garcetti would have gotten a late start compared to the others in terms of endorsements, contributions and general support.
Garcetti's name had also circulated as a possible contender for Sen. Dianne Feinstein's seat. But Feinstein, 84, announced earlier this month that she planned to run for a fifth full term in 2018 and Garcetti has thrown his support behind her. State Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, D-Los Angeles, who is considered urban, progressive and Latino like Garcetti, is now taking on Feinstein in an effort to win the veteran senator's seat.
"Given the candidates running for governor and the candidates running for U.S. Senate, the only thing left for (Garcetti) to do is run for president," Guerra said. "And the reason is he can distinguish himself much more as a candidate for president against that potential field than he could distinguish himself for candidates running for governor and U.S. Senate."
Garcetti political adviser, Yusef Robb, said Sunday that the mayor would have been a "a very competitive candidate" for governor, something echoed by political pundits.
"But L.A. is home and is such a tremendous platform from which to launch big things on jobs, infrastructure and more," Robb wrote in an email. He cited Measure M transportation projects, homelessness initiatives and airport and port investments as well as the rising Silicon Beach, home to hundreds of tech startups on greater Los Angeles' west side.
Meanwhile, there's currently no clear frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination. Garcetti could distinguish himself as an expert of urban policy in light of the fact that the vast majority of voters in the Democratic Party live in urban areas, Guerra said.
There are other factors that also distinguish Garcetti on a national level, he added. During his tenure, he's delivered not only the Summer Olympics in 2028 but two NFL teams and the World Series.
"It speaks to his ability to be able to negotiate and communicate the essence and positive position of Los Angeles," Guerra said.
A majority of local Los Angeles County residents polled earlier this summer said they are fine with Garcetti running for president, according to a recent Loyola Marymount University survey.
Nearly 63 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political post.
But whether the local support will translate to national support is not yet clear.
When asked about Garcetti's chances to be elected president, Guerra said the LA mayor probably has about a 5 percent chance at this point. But he argued "that's actually pretty good since "I don't think there's anybody else that has a 10 percent chance of winning right now."
While no U.S. president has been elected president while serving as mayor, the most recent presidential election has proven that Garcetti's chances could be just as good as the next potential candidate, he added.
"If we can elect someone like Donald Trump, we can elect anyone," Guerra said.

In a similar vein, Pitney noted that Garcetti has "very little" national recognition outside of California.
"Practically nobody knows who he is but that is true of most presidential candidates and that was true of (former U.S. President) Barack Obama in 2005," he said.

Armenian Weekly

ANCA Engages Officials In The US and Armenia With The Aim of Launching Non Stop Flights To Yerevan

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) is continuing its engagement with key government, business, and civil society stakeholders in both Armenia and the United States to establish non-stop flights between Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Zvartnots International Airport (EVN) in Yerevan, Armenia with a U.S. carrier.
"Direct travel from LAX to our sister city in Yerevan would bring new opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and family togetherness," LA Mayor Eric Garcetti told the ANCA (Photo: ANCA)
Zanku Armenian, who is leading the ANCA's effort and Zareh Sinanyan, Glendale, California City Council Member recently traveled to Yerevan to discuss with officials the practical steps necessary to establish this proposed flight route. Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek was also in Yerevan on an official visit at the same time, arranged by the ANCA Pasadena chapter. Tornek and Sinanyan serve together on the Burbank Hollywood Airport Commission, as President and Vice President, respectively. The meetings in Yerevan build on discussions ANCA officials had earlier this year with LAX CEO Deborah Flint.
Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of Armenian-Americans in the United States. This ambitious undertaking to establish a global direct link between Los Angeles and Yerevan comes at a time when LAX is going through a massive $14 billion dollar makeover, turning it into a world-class airport—while the Southern California region also prepares to host the Olympic Games in 2028. LAX is already the number one destination airport in the country, with more flights originating and ending there than any other airport.
"L.A. has strong and lasting bonds with the people of Armenia," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Direct travel from LAX to our sister city in Yerevan would bring new opportunities for economic growth, cultural exchange, and family togetherness."
"We see an eagerness on the part of all officials to work with the ANCA to explore this creative initiative," said Armenian, "because linking the largest Armenian-American diaspora community in the United States with Armenia will boost tourism and business opportunities in both Los Angeles and Armenia."
In Yerevan, consultations began with the Chairman of the State Revenue Committee, Vardan Harutyunyan. He welcomed the positive economic impact this flight would have on both regions. In addition to pledging his support, Harutyunyan encouraged continued direct contacts with government officials in Yerevan, including helping to bring appropriate stakeholders in Armenia together to further evaluate the financial feasibility of this endeavor.
Discussions were also held with Sergey Avetisyan, Director General of Civil Aviation for Armenia. Avetisyan reiterated that establishing non-stop airline service with the U.S. has long been a goal, especially as passenger traffic to Yerevan continues to grow at a rapid pace year-over-year. Avetisyan acknowledged that all the technical pre-conditions already exist for Armenia to accept the type of large aircraft it would take to make such a long journey. This includes the Boeing 777 aircraft which currently already lands at Zvartnots Airport. Avetisyan also expressed confidence that any additional levels of security certification required by international and U.S. authorities to allow for non-stop flights between Armenia and the U.S. could easily be met, as Armenia already maintains a high degree of security at its airport in Yerevan.
Glendale City Councilman and Burbank Hollywood Airport Commission Member Zareh Sinanyan, Sergey Avetisyan, Director General of Civil Aviation for Armenia and longtime ANCA leader Zanku Armenian in Yerevan discussing steps needed to establish a non-stop LAX-EVN flight (Photo: ANCA)
The group also met with Andranik Shkhyan, Deputy General Manager at Zvartnots International Airport, who was also enthusiastic about establishing non-stop US-Armenia airline service. He advised that he was also taking active steps to promote this effort by sharing relevant information with certain U.S. carriers. Shkhyan pledged to collaborate with the ANCA to further promote this non-stop flight goal within aviation circles to attract possible new airline service.
Lastly, a meeting was held with Zarmine Zeitountsian, Chairperson of the State Committee for Tourism, which is part of the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia. Ms. Zeitountsian also welcomed the creation of non-stop airline service with the U.S. and offered the full support of her office in pursuing this effort, as it aligns with the Committee's mission to promote increased tourism to Armenia.
"This round of direct meetings with Armenian government officials in Yerevan was an important step in laying the groundwork for future steps that will need to be taken," said Zanku Armenian of the ANCA. "The next critical steps include the need for a detailed financial feasibility study and other economic impact studies that will be used in discussions with possible investors and U.S. carriers that could serve the new route," Armenian continued.
While the meetings were being held in Armenia, the ANCA also briefed members of the U.S. Congressional delegation that visited Armenia and Artsakh the following week. These and previous congressional briefings intend to secure support from various Members of Congress who can help with the appropriate U.S. federal agencies that would need to be involved in this process.
The ANCA plans to continue pursuing this bold initiative working with relevant government officials in the United States and Armenia. The ANCA's effort aims to ensure a methodical, integrated and professional approach between the government and private sectors that is necessary to attract the serious interest of U.S. carriers.

LA Times

Day of the Dead culture is getting pulled into Halloween's retail vortex

By James Peltz

As thousands prepared to head to Hollywood Forever Cemetery on Saturday for its 18th annual celebration of the Mexican tradition known as Dia de los Muertos, they had no shortage of places to shop.

Outfits adorned with images of colorful sugar skulls, skeletons and other traditional Day of the Dead symbols are available these days far beyond the small neighborhood stores that once had a lock on such things.

Target, Wal-Mart and other big retailers have plastered the theme on masks, paper plates and candle holders. There are Day of the Dead earrings and necklaces at Party City, costumes and headbands at Spirit Halloween stores and temporary tattoos and bed covers available at Etsy.com.

Merchandise capitalizing on the tradition had been spreading rapidly in the retail world in recent years, but this year it seems to be everywhere, even stamped on the California lottery's "Dia de los Muertos Scratchers."

With BridgeClimb Sydney, guests can ascend the southern arch of the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, seven days a week, night or day. The view from the bridge is breathtaking.

The Hollywood Forever Cemetery event was just one of 19 Day of the Dead festivitiesacross greater Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced on Twitter. Day of the Dead also is the underlying concept of a new Pixar animated movie, "Coco," that's being heavily marketed ahead of its Nov. 22 release.

Some point to another movie, 2015's James Bond film "Spectre," for helping propel the Day of the Dead momentum because it includes an elaborate Dia de los Muertos parade in Mexico City.

As a result, Day of the Dead — largely celebrated Nov. 1 and 2 — effectively has become rolled up into the Halloween retail juggernaut, unsettling some observers who see it as cultural appropriation that turns the centuries-old Day of the Dead remembrances into crass commercialism.

The melding together of Halloween and Day of the Dead is becoming more apparent.— Charlene Villaseñor Black, UCLA professor

Nearly 180 million Americans this year are expected to spend a record $9.1 billion on Halloween, a 32% surge from just two years ago, according to the National Retail Federation.

The trade group doesn't yet track Day of the Dead sales alone, but "we wouldn't be surprised if it becomes mainstream by next year, especially after movies like 'Coco' are released," federation spokeswoman Ana Serafin Smith said. "Movies influence what a lot of people want to dress up as on Halloween."

Day of the Dead merchandise "has been a popular style" for Party City since it began carrying the products three years ago, said Ryan Vero, president of Party City's retail division, which operates 900 U.S. outlets. "We even dedicated a section in our stores for this merchandise," he said.

Day of the Dead products are "dramatically more visible to me this year," said Charlene Villaseñor Black, a professor of Ibero American Art and Chicana/Chicano Studies at UCLA. "The melding together of Halloween and Day of the Dead is becoming more apparent."

The ever-growing Halloween retail phenomenon is even encroaching on Christmas turf. Some Halloween buffs are buying bright-orange fake Christmas trees from the likes of Treetopia of South San Francisco and adorning them with skulls, skeletons and candy to create Halloween trees.

The jump in Halloween spending not only is a bright spot for retailers but an offbeat economic indicator because its growth generally has tracked the economy's expansion and rising consumer confidence.

The National Retail Federation's spending survey, conducted with Prosper Insights and Analytics, showed that only 12.9% of respondents said current economic conditions would affect their Halloween spending this year. That figure was 32.1% six years ago, when the economic recovery was stumbling.

Holiday's popularity is growing

Dia de los Muertos goes back thousands of years. Much of the holiday is aimed at celebrating life along with remembering the dead.

The event traditionally consisted of family gatherings that often were held at the gravesites of the departed. Altars, or ofrendas, also were created in survivors' homes with photos and favorite objects of dead loved ones.

Day of the Dead's rising popularity in Southern California is seen as occurring in lockstep with the region's growing Latino population, a consumer segment the retail industry naturally wants to capture.

But there's been a backlash in some quarters.

A recent article on style website Bustle.com listed the Day of the Dead sugar-skull mask or face painting as one of eight costumes that "are actually racist, even if you might not realize it" unless one was raised in Mexican culture and observes Dia de los Muertos.

The website Latina.com listed Dia de los Muertos as one of seven things "Mexicans did before it was cool" and that the holiday "has become fodder for cultural-appropriating Americans."

Pixar parent Walt Disney Co. also ran into controversy as it developed plans for "Coco." Disney tried to trademark "Dia de los Muertos" in 2013 but withdrew the application after a public uproar that accused Disney of cultural insensitivity.

Certain universities also are urging students to avoid Halloween costumes in general that some might deem offensive because they reflect ethnic stereotypes or are culturally insensitive and disrespectful.

UCLA's Villaseñor Black said she too was "more conscious of the issue of appropriation" with Day of the Dead merchandise.

"I am wondering about the commercialization" of the tradition at the same time "Latinos and Mexicans are under fire, really, in the United States," she said, in part because of the heightened national dispute about immigration.
"There's a tension in my mind," she said.
It's not surprising that Day of the Dead merchandise sales would flow into the Halloween retail season because of the calendar, said Tricia Lacy, president of Beistle Co., a century-old Pennsylvania maker of decorations and party goods for retailers.
"There's no practical way to wait until Halloween" to buy Day of the Dead costumes and other goods "because they're celebrated one right after the other," she said. So retailers increasingly include Day of the Dead sections in their Halloween displays.
When Beistle started carrying Day of the Dead products more than a decade ago, it sold only four items. It now has more than 60 Dia de los Muertos products for sale, including masks and paper lanterns, "and we will have more next year," she said.

My News LA

Wedding cake same-sex bakery battle at US Supreme Court: LA backs gay couple

By City News Service
The Los Angeles City Attorney's office helped write a brief submitted Monday to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a same-sex couple denied service by a Colorado bakerbecause of their sexual orientation.
The brief prepared by the city's lawyers, along with legal staff for Santa Clara County and New York City, was filed on behalf of 70 cities and counties and 80 mayors across the United States.
"Again we're taking a stand for LGBTQ equality and against discrimination that assaults citizens' dignity based on sexual orientation," Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said. "A business that denied service because of a customer's race or religion would be roundly condemned. Denying service based on sexual orientation deserves the same condemnation. The court should see this case for what it is — an attempt to subvert anti- discrimination laws that ensure equal treatment for all people."
The case dates back to 2012, when a couple — David Mullins and Charlie Craig — went to Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado, to order a cake for their wedding, but were denied service by owner Jack Phillips because they were a same-sex couple.
The brief, filed in Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, argues that the Supreme Court should reject Phillips' claim that he can refuse to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples because making a cake is an act of expression protected under the First Amendment.
The Colorado Civil Rights Commission ruled that the bakery had violated Colorado law by discriminating against Mullins and Craig. The bakery sought review of the ruling by the nation's highest court, which is scheduled to hear oral arguments on Dec. 5.
"Everyone deserves equal treatment under the law," Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "The religious freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution should never be used as a cover for bigotry — and we cannot allow anyone to undermine protections that shield Americans from discrimination."

City Watch

Hepatitis Outbreak In LA: A Wake Up Call

By Julia Stein
On October 25, 2017, protestors from the Catholic Worker and the LA Community action Network entered Los Angeles City Hall carrying covered toilets protesting lack of hygiene among homeless who have an outbreak of hepatitis A. The protestors tried to deliver the toilets to Mayor Garcetti.
The Los Angeles Times reported October 26 that the City Hall Security Desk stopped the toilets saying because they were porcelain "and no glass was allowed in the City Hall." Skid Row residents wrote messages on the toilets and had previously brought the toilets to City Hall. Protestors also occupied 4th floor bathroom stalls where the City Hall council offices are located from 9:45 am-2:00 pm. protesting lack of toilets for the homeless.
Governor Brown has declared California's hepatitis A outbreak an emergency on October 13. Fourteen people have the disease in Los Angeles and 71 in Santa Cruz. In San Diego 19 have died from hepatitis, over 490 have the disease, and 351 people have been hospitalized in the deadliest outbreak of the disease in 20 years. Most of the victims in these three cities have been homeless who lacked 24-hour public restrooms and hand washing facilities. Since hepatitis A can have a 15-to-50 day incubation period, people unaware they are infected can spread the disease through food or water contaminated by fecal matter or lack of hand washing. The LA Times said in "LA's hepatitis A outbreak" that "the existence of even a handful of cases among people who live closely together, often share food and utensils, and cannot easily track their contacts is a blueprint for a potentially massive outbreak."
In downtown Los Angeles Skid Row the city has only nine toilets for 1,800 people at night. 61,000 homeless are in the LA area with many living in tents along the Los Angeles River or under freeway underpasses have nowhere to wash their hands in the city and county. The demonstrators have asked for 164 toilets and wash stations for Skid Row to bring the area up to hygiene standards that the United Nations "sets for Syrian refugees." Ruben Martin Garcia, who lived on Skid Row for 24 years, said, "We're not asking for gold toilets with diamonds and emeralds. We're just asking for some … toilets."

City officials had promised to put up 10 more toilets in Skid Row by mid-September but by September 17th the toilets weren't installed. The city then said by mid-October they would install a mobile "hygiene center" for Skid Row on a city-owned parking lot with toilets, washing stations, showers, and half a dozen stacked washers and dryers but didn't. Councilman Jose Huizar, whose district includes Skid Row, and Mayor Garcetti's spokesman Alex Comisar both said they are working on getting new toilet facilities for Skid Row. The City Council has a discussion on the issue for October 27, 2017, on how to bring emergency portable toilets to the homeless. Councilmen Huizar, Mike Bonin, and Marqueece Harris-Dawson have agreed on a motion that in two weeks staff should report on portable toilets. Jed Poole, supervising coordinator at the Catholic Worker said, "The number [of people] on Skid Row ... deserves human dignity and human rights. They deserve to not have to piss and shit on a sidewalk, and then have to be criminalized for it."

LA City Council Mike Bonin secured funding to have public restrooms open 24-hours a day near Venice Beach, but the City hasn't used the money yet. Bonin, who has worked for months on increasing restrooms for the homeless, asked the City Council to fund emergency portable toilets on Venice Beach and a mobile toilet-and-sink program like San Francisco's. "The current situation is neither tolerable nor humane, and it is a risk to public health," Bonin said

Hand washing or vaccinations are ways to stop the spread of the disease. LA's Department of Public Health Los Angeles has started a vaccination program in homeless shelters, community clinics, service providers, and on the streets. Though persuading the homeless to get vaccinated is difficult.

The first week 1,200 people had been vaccinated, but that leaves 50,000 more people—drug users, the homeless, medical providers, jail inmates-- to vaccinate.

The hepatitis outbreak in California shows how lack of decent housing endangers public health. The first modern study of hookworm the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston showed hookworm, caused by lack of sewage treatment, is very common in Lowndes County, Alabama, which is 75% African-American and very poor. In Lowndes, the average income is $18,046 a year, and elementary waste disposal sanitation is "often non-existent." 34% of the people in a new study tested positive for hookworm.

Scientists once thought that hookworm, a disease associated with dire poverty, was prevalent during in the 19th and the early 20th century among both blacks and whites in the South, but had died out by the 1980s. The hookworm parasite, after entering the body, can after months or years cause iron deficiency and anemia, weight loss, tiredness, and impaired mental function so that children do poorly in school and become impoverished adults. Civil rights protestors led by Martin Luther King in 1965 marched through Lowndes County from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for voting right for blacks, but voting rights have not improved the poor sanitation.

The Guardian describes how in Lowndes County children are "playing feet away from open pools of raw sewage; drinking water pumped beside cracked pipes of untreated waste .... " The Baylor study found that 73% of the residents in the study have been exposed to "raw sewage washing back into their homes as a result of faulty septic tanks or waste pipes becoming overwhelmed in torrential rains." Anthony Thigpen, a community activist, said his cousins who live in a trailer park with bad sewage pipes say they are disgusted by it but "there's no public help for them here and if you're earning $700 a month there's no way you can afford your own private sanitation." 80% of Lowndes County is not covered by any municipal system. Most blacks in Lowndes Country are much too poor to upgrade their septic tanks.

Catherine Flowers, founder of Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise (ACRE), a non-profit that uncovers the root causes of poverty in rural Alabama, says, "Our billionaire philanthropists like Bill Gates fund water treatment around the world, but they don't fund it here in the US because no one acknowledges that this level of poverty exists in the richest nation of the world." Scientists from Houston who did the first study want now to conduct a larger study, and estimate as many as 12 million people in the U.S. could have neglected tropical diseases in the South and the Midwest. Dr. Peter Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, told the Guardian that the study's results were a "wake-up call to the nation."

The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) in October, 2016, also had a study that reported that bad housing causes many health problems. Metro USA New York reported that the NYAM study cited how in East Harlem, a very poor neighborhood, residents since 2011 have lost 2,000 units of affordable housing and estimates predict they will lose 6,000 more units in the next 10 years. Lacking housing they could afford, residents have increased homelessness and their health suffers: they have "high rates of hypertension, diabetes, asthma, infant mortality, drug addiction, and mental issues."

A lead author of the NYAM report Kimberly Libran said that the report's findings could apply to other communities in New York City as well as other cities. Holly Slaton is one such tenant who reports that tenants in her building experienced months of loud, hazardous construction that left many sick: "My daughter and I suffered months of respiratory infections, where our doctor told us to wear a dust mask in our own home. A woman downstairs report having her eye swollen shut as a result from a sinus infection which we also believe was caused by the dust we were forced to breathe in our own homes."

Brandon Kielbasa of Cooper Square Committee, which advocates for affordable housing, says that tenants in gentrifying neighborhoods face both unhealthy housing and intense psychological turmoil: "The physical act of converting affordable housing to luxury brings with it an unhealthy, unsafe, and often toxic environment for tenants."

The connection between bad housing and bad health has been known for over a hundred fifty years. In the 19th century as huge populations in both Britain and the United States poured into the newly industrializing cities, communal wells provided water and few cities had facilities that removed sewage. The poor lived in cramped tenements where infectious disease spread: epidemics of cholera, small pox, tuberculosis, and typhoid fever occurred regularly. In England Dr. John Snow discovered in 1854 how a cholera epidemic was spread by polluted water. The Public Health

Act in 1875 in England made local cities provide sewage disposal facilities and clean water for all. Also in many U.S. cities public health officials installed sewers and hygienic water systems and death rates fell drastically.
In Los Angeles KCET TV did a story "Addressing South L.A's Slum Housing and Indoor Air Pollution" where Lizzeth Henao Rosales reported that South Los Angeles, which is largely black and Latino, has 69% renters in some of the oldest housing in the city.
Vilma Marroquin lived in a building in South Los Angeles owned by a notorious slumlord William Little. The building has "a severe pest infestation, including cockroaches and bedbugs, crumbling walls, and leaking plumbing." The landlord's use of toxic pesticides caused Marroquin's two children to have severe health problems needing multiple visits to the emergency room: once her son "stopped breathing a day after her unit had been fumigated."
Marroquin became a tenant leader in Strategic Action for a Just Economy's campaign for healthy housing which advocates use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that requires "significant repairs to the crumbling infrastructure and a holistic view of the building as one unit." Marroquin filed complaints with City of Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department as well as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Her physician wrote letters for her two children demanding the landlord stop using toxic chemicals. Her landlord started using non-toxic pesticides and patched some holes in her apartment, but not for other apartments, so the building still has a severe pest infestation.
The World Health Organization by 2017 has said that adequate housing should protect against communicable diseases; protect against injury, poisoning and chronic diseases; and reduce psychological stress to a minimum. Currently some of the major health problems in the U .S. from poor housing are water seeping into a home and poor ventilation that increase moisture leading to pests—cockroaches, rats, and mice-- and to mold—two known triggers of allergies and asthma. High lead levels from housing with very old lead pipes results in learning disabilities, neurological problems, and even death. Aging and poorly built homes also increase risk for chronic respiratory infections. Poor cooling in homes during heat waves can lead to the elderly having heat exhaustion and death from heat stroke while poor heating during winter helps facilitate diseases. Inner city neighborhoods that are food deserts lacking grocery stores with healthy fruits and vegetables lead to higher rates of obesity and its diseases than in wealthier neighborhoods with grocery stores.
As the nation's housing crises worsens with less affordable housing, then corresponding health problems will also increase among the homeless and among population forced to double or triple up—seven people living in a one-bedroom apartment, for example—increasing the spread of disease. The recent epidemic of hepatitis A in San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz as well as the National School of Tropical Medical at Baylor Medical School's recent study of hookworm among the poor blacks in Lowndes County, Alabama, are indeed wake up calls to the nation.

City Watch

I'm A Pit Bull! I'm Not A Pit Bull! LA Animal service Playing Games With Breed ID Labels!

By Phyllis Daugherty
At its Tuesday night meeting, Oct. 24, the Los Angeles Animal Services' Commission, appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, approved General Manager Brenda Barnette's report requesting removal of all dog-breed ID labels from kennel cards in the interests of "transparency," because she and the City shelter staff "really don't know the breed of the dogs."
This policy was promoted by Commissioners Layne Dicker and Roger Wolfson, both attorneys. Barnette cites a study by the makers of DNA tests which found, "The presence of a breed's signature does not guarantee that the dog will look like the specific detected breed…" Thus, following this theory, many of the "Pit Bulls" that are touted as great pets may not really be Pit Bulls.
GM Barnett summarized her report, saying, "We believe that we have an ethical responsibility to be honest with the community by not providing them with false information about, and creating false expectations of, the dog they are adopting. To do that we propose eliminating breed labels on our cage cards, online profiles and anywhere that breed labels have previously been used."
If anyone doubts that this move toward "honesty "is a subterfuge to place Pit Bulls with adopters who do not want, or fear, the breed, here was just one of the GM's comments at the meeting:
"We need to get with the veterinary community and educate them on what we are doing. One of the most damning things that can happen is for a vet to say, "Oh, my God, you got a Pit Bull, when they really don't know any more than we do."
The public will be told that, rather than relying on breed identification which might not be accurate, they should focus on the specific dog. There was no acknowledgement of the lack of sophistication in choosing an appropriate pet by many shelter adopters.
Barnette explained that, rather than speculating on breed, the test of behavior of a dog is determined by putting it in an area with a family or in a play group to find out how it reacts. She added, "People often ask me, 'How is this dog with children,' and I say, "I don't know, but bring your child over and we can do an introduction, and we'll be careful."
Commissioner Roger Wolfson questioned--but quickly ignored his own concerns--that the Department does not have the resources or personnel to institute such a drastic change.
For those enticed to discover the love of an "experienced" and loving pet as it cuddles up to a TV news anchor, media will no longer be identifying any LAAS by breed nor speculating on possible breed. This policy change will also stop "breed rescue" from Los Angeles shelters, because it is discriminatory for some dogs to be singled out as purebreds.

"Instead of focusing on how to get more of these pit bulls adopted...we should be focused on reducing the number of pit bulls that need to be adopted," writes J. Thomas Beasley.

BE AWARE THAT THIS POLICY APPLIES ONLY TO LA CITY ANIMAL SERVICES AND NONE OF THE OTHER LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS

WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS?

A Best Friends Animal Society webpage (Removing Breed Labels from Adoptable Pets) states, "Thanks to Maddie's Fund, Best Friends is working on a study within our own adoption centers in Los Angeles and with some of our valued partners, including Pima County, Arizona."

Barnette explained the theory derives from the research of one doctoral student at Arizona University who found that people reacted differently to breed-associated dogs in photos. However, in reviewing that research, Lisa Gunter, who spoke at the meeting, was cautious in concluding any notable increase in adoptions at the Florida shelter where this experiment was implemented and studied, stating that, the slight gains seen could also have been influenced by changes in shelter hours and adoption incentives.

Elizabeth Oreck, National Manager for Best Friends Animal Society Puppy Mill Initiatives, commented about mistakes in breed identification online, elaborating, "This obsession with breed is a thorn in my side. It is the reason that puppy mills are doing what they are doing and the reason people are getting what they think they want and not getting what they should want and what we can provide to them. So, instead of trying to meet the demands for what people want, which is generally purebreds, we should be making them want what we have already, so that we don't have to make more of these breeds. We are able to provide what already exists so that we can stop killing what already exists."

BREED ID IS REQUIRED FOR LICENSING AND INSURANCE

Insurance

Farmers' Insurance agent Michael Gonzales advises that the way the insurance industry would handle this is to just not cover any damaging acts by the dog, because all policies require that the breed and bite history of all insured dogs is provided.

Licensing

Barnette has not addressed the fact that LAAS is required to issue a license to every dog over four months which is adopted from the shelter. The State requires a breed to be listed. She did not say how this will be handled. One of the department's prime public health and safety responsibilities is to issue dog licenses for every dog in the City to verify rabies vaccination.

Barnette stated she had looked at some rabies certificates from veterinarians and they listed the breed as "mixed" and that had not stopped processing. However, she did not say whether she actually looked at the associated license to see if the Department or the pet owner had identified the breed before issuance.

The California Department of Public Health's website sets the NASPHV Rabies Certificate as a model to use, and it asks for the predominant breed. It also lists the rabies codes and regulations. The certificate calls for a description of the dog "including breed, color, age, and sex.

In addition, the CA Food and Agricultural Code. Chapter 3. Dog Tags, reads, § 30802. Application. Each application for a dog license tag shall state the age, sex, color, and breed of the dog for which the license is desired and the address of the owner.

Certain breeds are commonly not allowed under some insurance policies or rental agreements. The staff will no longer be free to share with potential adopters whether it may be one of those breeds, according to Barnette.

Commission President Larry Gross pressed Barnette for assurance that renters would not be in danger of taking home a pet that could cause them to be evicted, but she managed to sidestep this issue by referring to providing the weight of the dog.

WILL LA CITY SHELTERS INCREASE LIABILITY / RETURNS?

Historically, LA city and other shelter staff provide their "best-guess" estimate of the breed(s) of unwanted, homeless dogs. Sometimes they are wrong, but it is not a deliberate attempt to deceive the public. As they become more familiar with the dog, they often make corrections in the breed assessment, based on what they observe -- positive or negative -- and include any identifiable traits observed that are genetically programmed into certain breeds.

Some dogs exhibit aggressive or fearful behavior, bite or attempt to attack other dogs or cats while impounded, and the staff has. in the past, been able to advise the public that it may need a "special" home, supervision in certain situations, or recommend that it not be adopted where there are children or other pets. Under the proposed policy, that will not be allowed because it would indicate "negative" behavior.

Brenda Barnette personally released a dangerous dog, named Sodom, with a history of attacks.

This entire discussion by the Commissioners and Barnette did not include the safety of pet and families.

ATTORNEY'S OPINION

Jeffrey Zinder, Senior Partner at the Mission Hills law firm of Zinder, Koch & McBratney, opined,

The public relies on the apparent expertise and knowledge of its officials, including those involved with its shelters. The fact that breed-specific descriptions appear in residential leases and insurance policies requires that information is not withheld or misrepresented. After an attack you can be assured that the insurance adjuster will require a DNA test and that result along with the general appearance of the dog may have disastrous consequences for the person who "adopted/rescued" the animal. Regardless of any PC label, once in your possession you are the owner and liable for its conduct.

This is one of the most absurd steps being proposed in an effort to empty the shelters regardless of impact on public safety.

ADOPTERS' ACCESS TO PAST HISTORY
Barnette describes one change in her Oct. 17 report which differs from the original plan:
"If an owner surrenders a dog and believes that s/he knows what breed the dog is, it will be listed in the notes along with all other information, such as behavior history, that we input. That, as all information will be shared with an interested possible adopter or rescue partner."
(That is an improvement, but does it pertain to ALL dogs impounded or just to surrenders?)
"Notes" are those comments entered by the veterinarian regarding vaccines, weight, health issues etc. They do not contain behavior history, other than whether the examining vet can "handle the dog."
"Behavior memos," which are shared internally among employees and volunteers are separate and must also be made available to potential adopters. That policy must be put into a written form provided to them before the adoption process and be a posted policy so potential adopters know to ask for them--if Barnette's intention is truly "transparency" and full disclosre.
BRENDA BARNETTE'S DISAVOWAL OF BREEDS
It is difficult to take seriously Brenda Barnette's disavowal of the ability to identify breed characteristics in dogs, considering she was an AKC representative and dog breeder (along with her daughter, Mary Alice Davis, an employee of Best Friends). She was listed showing her Poodle in Seattle in 2009 at the Gavilan Kennel Club and in May 2010 at a BaRay Event. She was hired as GM of L.A. Animal Services in June 2010--one month later--and formally began her duties in September 2010.
My 2013 article, Brenda Barnette's Daughter is a 'Responsible' Dog Breeder, Says Best Friends' L.A. Director, discusses the disclosure by Daniel Guss of a dog show roster dated May 23, 2013, in which Brenda Barnette and her daughter Mary Alice Davis are listed as "owners" in several competitions at the Southern California Portuguese Water Dog Club, under the listing for "Puppy Bitches:" 9 months and under 12 months, (8) CUTWATER IT HAD TO BE YOU, WS43376901. 05/29/2012.
Marc Peralta, Executive Director of Best Friends LA, wrote in an e-mail to Daniel Guss on Oct. 13, 2013, "Mary Alice falls into the category of responsible breeders."
COUNCILMAN PAUL KORETZ' OFFER REJECTED
Jim Bickhart, representing Councilmember Koretz, spoke at the meeting and pointed out, "I am not hearing any discussion that relates to whether this results in a higher percentage of successful adoptions -- where the animals don't come back to the shelter?"
He advised the Commission that Councilman Koretz would be willing to entertain the Commission forwarding its final decision and background information to the City Council so it could be referred to the PAW Committee for further review and a hearing held on it, with recommendations sent back, if they make a decision. He emphasized "that doesn't--in a legal sense--take away from your policy-making role--but could be included in your instruction to the Department, or not."
Commissioner Wolfson moved NOT to refer this Item to Councilman Koretz. It was seconded by Commissioner Dicker. The Commission resoundingly approved the motion.

Curbed

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park

By Bianca Barragan
Studio-MLA (formerly Mia Lehrer and Associates), Gruen Associates, and Psomas were tapped last year to help create a 12-mile bike path along the Los Angeles River that would connect Canoga Park with Griffith Park. We're getting a sneak peek at what that greenway project could bring to the river's banks.
Studio-MLA designed "river-front trails, bikeways, greenways, pocket parks, habitat areas, and urban runoff treatment facilities" along the river from Vanalden Avenue to Forest Lawn/Zoo Drive to the east by "converting existing maintenance roads into a continuous greenway and designing bridge and road crossings where the trail meets streets, freeways and rail lines," says a statement from Studio MLA.
The project was highlighted in the summer of 2016, when Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the design team, as well as a wave of funding for the project from his office.
"This bikeway will give all Angelenos a new way to experience our city, build accessibility to our revitalized river, and expand green space for families to enjoy," Garcetti said last summer.
Community workshops are underway now, with a final feasibility study due out in early 2018, Mary Nemick, spokesperson for the city's engineering bureau, tells Curbed. Construction is estimated to begin in 2020.
Funding also comes from the offices of Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and City Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez, and David Ryu. The city's Department of Recreation and Parks is another partner on the project.

News Deeply

Could A Simpler Delta Tunnel Solve Years Of California Water Conflict?

By Matt Weiser
CALIFORNIA'S AMBITIOUS PLAN to build two giant water tunnels under the West's largest estuary has been deemed too expensive by some of the water utilities that would have to pay for it. As a result, attention is turning back to a

cheaper option: One tunnel instead of two.
On October 17, the board of directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District unanimously rejected the $17 billion twin-tunnel project, known as WaterFix, and instead expressed support for a smaller, single-tunnel alternative. The district serves more than 1 million people in Silicon Valley.
A single tunnel was also recently endorsed by Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, who represents a big share of the urban customers who would help pay for it. And the Public Policy Institute of California, a prominent think-tank, came out in support of the idea last year.
Ironically, it is an option the state's top water agencies rejected out of hand a decade ago. This occurred even though environmental groups actually supported it and encouraged the state Department of Water Resources and its water contractors to investigate a single tunnel, which could save nearly $8 billion.
What's even more striking is that a single tunnel was first proposed not by environmental groups dabbling around the edges of the water industry. It came from an expert at another Bay Area water utility with lots of experience building big water projects.
"We told them back in 2007 that the right thing to do was build one tunnel, and see if it works," said Greg Gartrell, who was then assistant general manager at Contra Costa Water District and is now retired. "If you need two tunnels later on, do that. But if you do two tunnels right up front, you're basically stranding an asset. Half your investment is doing nothing for you."
State officials looked at a single-tunnel option in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as one of more than a dozen alternatives for their WaterFix project. The route, shown here, includes a single 3,000cfs tunnel and one intake on the Sacramento River, near Clarksburg. (Image courtesy California Department of Water Resources)
Gartrell said that is because the state's own analysis of the tunnel concept shows water yield from the project doesn't increase much, no matter how big the tunnels are. One reason is that, very often, the flow in the Sacramento River restricts how much water can be diverted into the tunnels.
For obvious reasons, the project would never be allowed to divert so much water that it would dry up the Sacramento River. This resulted in a basic ground rule stating that no water can be diverted into the tunnels until river flows reach about 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Such flows generally occur only during winter and spring. Even then, only minimal diversions are allowed until river flows ramp up much higher.
As a result, Gartrell said, river conditions allowing the dual tunnels to operate at their full 9,000cfs capacity would exist only about 7 percent of the time.
In contrast, a single tunnel sized at 3,000cfs would be able to operate at full capacity much more often. On balance, it would fall just a few hundred thousand acre-feet short of matching the total annual water diversions of the dual tunnels, Gartrell said.
The state's own analysis in 2013 showed that a single-tunnel project sized at 3,000cfs would deliver only 10 percent less water annually.
That's not a significant loss, he said, from a project expected to deliver more than 4 million acre-feet annually. And the $8 billion saved could be spent on other water projects that would more than make up the difference.
The $17 billion dual-tunnel project is intended to create a bypass for freshwater exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an estuary that provides freshwater for 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland.
For decades, this water has been diverted using massive pumps at the southern edge of the South Delta, near the town of Tracy. The pumps kill millions of native fish and are powerful enough to reverse the Delta's natural river flows, disrupting habitat and causing water quality problems.
The tunnels would switch diversions to a location 40 miles upstream on the Sacramento River. This would prevent the reverse-flow conditions and, with modern fish screens in place, would reduce the fish kill.
Gartrell's single-tunnel idea was subsequently embraced by a number of environmental groups as a promising solution to the Delta's troubles.
In 2010, the Planning and Conservation League released a package of eight water solutions for California that included a single Delta tunnel.
Then in 2013, the Natural Resources Defense Council released its so-called portfolio-based alternative, which supported a single Delta tunnel along with numerous regional water-supply projects.
Russell van Loben Sels is a longtime Delta farmer who opposes California's WaterFix proposal, which includes building one of three intakes on farmland he owns near Courtland. Support has grown for single-tunnel option, which would require just one intake. (Randall Benton, Sacramento Bee)
If the state had chosen to pursue a single tunnel years ago, said NRDCattorney Doug Obegi, it's likely construction could have been well underway by now given its smaller size and fewer logistical and environmental complications.
"It does seem like a missed opportunity," Obegi said. "We've wasted significant time and millions of dollars studying this larger project that doesn't make sense economically or ecologically."
The question now is, what would be required now to embrace a single tunnel as a serious alternative?
The state did include a single tunnel (known as alternatives 5 and 5A) among its formal alternatives in the final environmental impact study adopted in December 2016. This alternative called for a single intake on the Sacramento River and a single tunnel with a capacity of 3,000cfs. This single tunnel would follow the same approximate route under the Delta as the dual-tunnel project.
The state estimated in 2013 this single-tunnel alternative would cost $8.6billion – about $8 billion less than the dual tunnels.
Officials at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California have said they are open to considering a single

tunnel. The district is the largest water agency to support the more costly dual-tunnel project so far.
"We're always willing to talk about it," Roger Patterson, Met's assistant general manager, told Water Deeply in December. "I get it: In order to get something done, you gotta do horse trading. But it also still has to work."
It is unclear if the single-tunnel alternative was investigated sufficiently by the state to become its new project choice. Obegi said it was not, and much deeper analysis will likely be required.
"How it would be operated is really the most important thing in determining whether this is something that would be OK for the environment or would be detrimental for the Delta," he said. "There's very little to nothing that has been said about how they would operate a smaller facility."
Such details may be moot, because the state Department of Water Resources is still officially wedded to the $17 billion dual-tunnel project, said spokeswoman Erin Mellon.
"DWR is continuing to advance WaterFix as it is currently structured: A two-tunnel project with three intakes with a combined capacity of 9,000 cfs," she said.

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River:

Sneak a peek at LA River bike path that would link Canoga Park and Griffith Park
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Gehry says transformation of LA River into a green oasis will never happen
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Economic Development:

$54 Million Hollywood Development Breaks Ground
https://www.multihousingnews.com/post/54m-hollywood-development-breaks-ground/

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils:

LAUSD's homeless student population grew by 50% last year. Here's why
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Harvard-Westlake Shelves Controversial Parking Lot/ Sky Bridge On Hold And Acquires Nearby Golf Course
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Harvard-Westlake buying Studio City golf course, may halt controversial parking project
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Harvard Westlake buying 16 acres of LA river adjacent land in Studio City
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World Series fever may be affecting LA Unified students

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LA Unified says PUC Schools should have unearthed alleged Rodriguez conflict three years ago
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They approve portable toilet system for homeless people
https://laopinion.com/2017/10/30/aprueban-sistema-de-banos-portatiles-para-personas-desamparadas/

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Rising Rent Burden In Los Angeles
https://www.kcet.org/shows/city-rising/rising-rent-burden-in-los-angeles

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

2 messages

Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]> Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 3:43 AM
To: Carolyn comcast <[redacted]>, Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>

MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI

LA will keep pursuing FIFA World Cup if City Council agrees
LA Council Keeps City In Pursuit Of 2026 World Cup Hosting Duties
Echo of Obamacare: Dems divided over vow to repeal tax law
Some data for Garcetti before selecting next LAPD chief
Pedestrian Deaths Surge In LA Overall Traffic Fatalities Down Slightly
Pedestrian deaths surge in LA, overall traffic fatalities down slightly
Normalizing The Chaos In California
Letters: With a homeless crisis in LA, now is not the time for Mayor Garcetti to campaign for President
Llewellyn confirmed to top LA city post, says he will help leaders make hard choices

Daily News

LA will keep pursuing FIFA World Cup if City Council agrees

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council appears set to pass a resolution today that would keep the city pursuing host city duties for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The city's participation in the event was thrown into doubt earlier this month when some potential logistical problems and financial liability risks were noted in a report to the City Council, but those issues appear to have been negated after some sports companies in Los Angeles, including Anschutz Entertainment Group and the Los Angeles Football Club, formed a limited liability company with the intent on taking the lead on executing the host city contract.

The LLC will "absorb all of the potential risks" in hosting, Branamir Kvartuc, a spokesman for Councilman Joe Buscaino, told City News Service last week.

Among the problems with the potential host contract was that Los Angeles would be the official host city but the games would likely be played at a venue outside the city — the new NFL stadium under construction in Inglewood or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The contract would have called for the city to provide police officers and other services at the venues, along with other guarantees, including that the airspace be free of commercial signage and advertising.

"We can't do police support in Inglewood or Pasadena," Kvartuc said.

FIFA, soccer's international governing body, rejected amendments to the host city contract proposed by the Los Angeles Convention and Tourism Board, according to the city staff report from the offices of the chief legislative officer, city administrator and city attorney. The board was originally to be the signee of the host city contract with FIFA, with the city of L.A. to sign a memorandum of understanding with the LACTB, Kvartuc said.

"Not only could the city be liable for partial performance, or nonperformance, the city could also incur liability for damages resulting from the performance of other governmental entities or private parties," the city staff report said.

As a result of the contract problems, Council President Herb Wesson never scheduled a vote for the host city agreement, according to Kvartuc, but Mayor Eric Garcetti intervened and asked the United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid, to extend a deadline so the contract issues could be worked out.

A spokeswoman for Wesson did not respond to a request to comment, but Wesson was one of the eight council members who signed the new resolution, which is scheduled to be voted on by the Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee, immediately followed by a vote by the full City Council.

In the last two weeks since the extension was granted, the LLC has been formed, and the cities of Inglewood and Pasadena have also provided letters of support to serve as potential venue hosts, Kvartuc said. The resolution under consideration by the City Council says the city will work "in good faith" with the host committee to negotiate a contract specifying the types and level of city services to be provided by the city for 2026 World Cup events.

If the North American bid is successful, the United States would stage 60 matches, and Mexico and Canada 10 apiece, and at least 12 cities will be selected as venues for games. The LATCB said in a report that any one host city could generate $400 million to $600 million in total economic impact as a result of serving as a World Cup host.

NBC Los Angeles

LA Council Keeps City In Pursuit Of 2026 World Cup Hosting Duties

By City News Service

The Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution Tuesday that keeps the city pursuing host duties for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The city's participation in the event was thrown into doubt earlier this month when potential logistical problems and financial liability risks were noted in a report to the City Council. But those issues appeared to be resolved when local sports companies, including the Anschutz Entertainment Group, the Los Angeles Football Club and the Los Angeles Rams, formed a limited liability company with the intent on taking the lead on executing the host city contract.

Among the concerns that had arisen before the LLC was created was that while Los Angeles would be the official host city, the games would likely be played at a venue outside the city -- the new NFL stadium under construction in Inglewood or the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. The contract would have called for the city to provide police officers and other services at the venues, along with other guarantees, including that the airspace be free of commercial signage and advertising.

The formation of the LLC allows the city "to ease some of the risks that we'll take on if a game or match is not held in the city of L.A.," Councilman Joe Buscaino said before the vote.

Approval of the resolution, and a second agreement between Los Angeles World Airports and the United States Soccer Federation over airport obligations for any FIFA events, was far from routine, with several council members voicing concerns during a debate that went on for nearly two hours.

The two biggest concerns expressed were that the LLC only officially formed Tuesday and the council had not seen the actual LLC documents, and that the LAWA agreement gives FIFA the power to make unilateral changes.

The resolution was approved on a 14-1 vote, while the LAWA agreement was passed with an 11-4 vote. Councilman Mitch O'Farrell cast the lone vote against the resolution. The council also voted 11-4 against an amendment to the LAWA agreement introduced by O'Farrell that would have asked the Board of Airport Commissioners to renegotiate with U.S. Soccer and remove the clause that gave FIFA, as a third party in the contract, unilateral power to change it down the road. Council members Mike Bonin, David Ryu and Bob Blumenfield voted with O'Farrell on the LAWA votes.

The United Bid Committee, which is leading the North American bid for the World Cup, had already granted two extensions to Los Angeles to work out its issues with the host agreements, and the second deadline expires Wednesday, which put the council under the gun to approve the documents.

"There's just not enough information and security in knowing that we're prepared to make the best decision at this moment with tomorrow's looming deadline for these votes we're about to take, so I just wanted to raise that concern," O'Farrell said. "I wish we had a better process legislatively quite frankly. I'm just not comfortable with this."

The council ultimately sided with the arguments of Councilman Paul Krekorian, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who laid out a detailed analysis of why he believed the risks in the agreements were minimal compared to the potential rewards. He cited statistics from the Los Angeles Trade and Convention Bureau, which estimated the event could have a $400 million to $600 million total economic impact in the area if Los Angeles serves as a World Cup host.

Krekorian also pointed out that the LLC would relieve the city from any serious liability related to the bid.

"As we've talked it through I've gone from thinking, 'Oh we really don't have enough before us, I'm really a little apprehensive' -- and you guys know I'm not one that's really afraid to ask questions about things, you know I'm usually the fly in the ointment on these things, but as we talked it through I'm just not seeing that it's that big of a risk," he said.

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Fox Business

Echo of Obamacare: Dems divided over vow to repeal tax law

By Steve Peoples

Republicans spent much of the last decade firing up their base with a vow to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. But when it came to doing the deed, they found promises much easier than execution.

Democrats may be starting down the same path on taxes.

From New Mexico to New York, high-profile liberals are calling for the repeal of the Republican tax plan that President Donald Trump signed into law just two months ago. They're betting big that the message will resonate with voters in the midterm elections in November and provide the sort of clear, populist economic message some Democrats worry has

been missing. But others, including red-state Democrats, are clearly queasy about the strategy, mindful that repealing a government benefit once it takes hold is far easier said than done — and not always popular.
When pressed, some leading Democrats conceded that they'd repeal only certain portions of the tax law despite the implication that they'd go further.
Read about Spectre and Meltdown—two new major security flaws affecting billions of computers, laptops, cell phones, servers, and cloud operating systems made in the last two decades.
Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a 2016 presidential candidate who appeared last weekend in Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan as part of the "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, said "No" three times in an AP interview when asked whether he backed full repeal.
"I think what we have got to do is sit down and take a look at what kind of tax benefits would work best for small business, for working families and the middle class," Sanders said. "But what we must repeal completely is tax breaks that go to billionaires and to profitable large corporations that are in some cases are paying very little in taxes right now."
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who may seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 and was also featured on the repeal tour, offered a more aggressive position.
"Repeal this tax bill," Garcetti said. "It was passed by, and for, the Washington crowd and their rich friends. Corporations and billionaires are doing just fine."
The messaging challenge comes as the Republican tax overhaul emerges as a central issue in this year's midterm elections. More than health care, guns, or immigration, Republicans and Democrats both have embraced the tax debate. Each side believes it has the winning argument in a battle that will decide the balance of power in Washington for the last two years of Trump's first term.
The conservative Koch brothers' political network has already begun spending millions of dollars on TV ads and grassroots events to help improve the plan's popularity.
While Trump and many conservative leaders cheered the tax overhaul, it was among the least popular pieces of legislation in modern history when it became law in December. Not a single Democrat in the House or Senate voted for the tax plan, which overwhelmingly benefited the wealthy, but included modest savings for many middle-class and lower-income Americans.
"I would urge Democrats to embrace repeal. It is a simple clean message. It also captures essentially what most Democrats feel about this bill: It's bad," said Nicole Gill, whose liberal group, Tax March, coordinated the ongoing "Repeal the Trump Tax" national tour, which in addition to Sanders and Garcetti has already featured appearances from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic National Committee Deputy Chairman Keith Ellison and at least 16 other members of Congress in recent weeks. The tour runs through mid-April.
Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who leads Senate Democrats' 2018 campaign efforts, encouraged all of his party's candidates, even the most vulnerable, to embrace their opposition to the tax law.
"Our members will be talking to these issues," Van Hollen said. "It doesn't matter if you're a red state or a blue state, the idea of running up the debt by $1.5 trillion and cutting Medicare and Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for big corporations and the wealthy is not popular."
So far, at least, red-state Democrats are quick to say they would not repeal the law if given the chance, in what is a far more cautious approach than some party strategists and blue-state officials would like.
"I think there's a lot of good things in the tax bill. I just think they went a little too far on some things," said West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who is running for re-election this fall in a state Trump won by 42 points.
Manchin, for example, said he wanted the corporate tax rate placed at 25 percent and he would not have voted to repeal the health coverage mandate.
"No, I wouldn't vote to repeal it. I'm not that type of a person," he said in an interview, adding that he had a similar philosophy on Obama's health care overhaul: Fix it, rather than repeal.
Democratic Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, a state Trump won by 20 points, said he understands that some constituents will benefit from the tax law. He said headlines about bonuses are "all positive" as far as he's concerned.
"There's portions of the tax bill that actually made sense," he said in an interview. "But the thing is, who pays for it? And it's our kids."
During the bill signing in December, Trump highlighted the corporate tax cut in particular, which was dropped from 35 percent to 21 percent. Companies such as Apple, Walmart, Cisco and Pepsi will save hundreds of millions of dollars and sent some of the savings to workers in the form of bonuses and pay increases, but much more went to corporate executives and other shareholders. The bill also lowered the tax rates for each income level and doubled the standard deduction.
Most Americans, but not all, will save money on their tax bills in the coming years, with wealthier taxpayers saving the most. The individual tax cuts will expire in 2025, while the business cuts are permanent.
Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat elected three months ago, suggested that it didn't matter much whether Democrats promised outright repeal or major improvements as they campaign against the Republican tax law this fall.
"Whether you take an approach of repealing or taking a piece of legislation that you can improve upon — it's the same thing (with) the Affordable Care Act — nothing's perfect," Northam said.

LA Observed
Some data for Garcetti before selecting next LAPD chief
By Fernando Guerra

Los Angeles' political history is more intricately entwined with that of its police department than any other American city, which will make Mayor Eric Garcetti's decision on who replaces retiring LAPD Chief Charlie Beck's one of his most consequential.

As social scientists committed to non-partisan analysis of life as it's currently lived in our city, we at Loyola Marymount's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles hope the mayor and his appointed police commissioners will work toward a decision informed not only by the usual City Hall interests, but also by the wealth of empirical data available concerning residents' views on LAPD and its policies.

There is no need to rehash here the long and, generally, unhappy interplay of LA's enmeshed histories of politics and policing. They long were marked on the one hand by civic corruption and cowardice and on the other by the department's political manipulations, indifference to constitutional rights and an abusive relationship with minority Angelenos, particularly African Americans, that sparked two of the most deadly and destructive urban riots in U.S. history. Suffice to say that, over recent decades, the two forces that have altered Los Angeles most fundamentally for the better have been demographic change toward vibrant diversity and real police reform.

Since the city's acceptance of a 2002 federal consent decree requiring a radical departmental overhaul, the LAPD has been led by William Bratton and Beck, a pair of genuine "reform chiefs" committed to constitutional policing. Both also are believers in community policing based on the late James Q. Wilson's "broken windows" theory, which advocates using officers proactively to curtail street-level disorder and incivility as presumed precursors of more serious offenses. As a result nearly all serious crimes have fallen to rates unseen since the Great Depression, and LAPD's relations with the communities it serves are better than they've been in historic memory.

Selecting a new chief who will build on that progress will challenge Garcetti and his appointed police commissioners to take the measure not only of the candidates, but also of the collective civic sentiments about the quality and effectiveness of today's LAPD. Based on public opinion research conducted by the Center for the Study of Los Angeles, there's a great deal be said about the latter, some of which many may find surprising.

Slightly more than seven out of every 10 Angelenos feel LAPD currently is doing an "excellent" or "good" job. An overwhelming 85% of the city's residents rate their police services as fair or better, and 42% describe them as "good." Similarly, 82% approve of the department's "conduct and professionalism."

Despite those historically low crime rates, however, half of residents characterize the city's "crime and safety" situation as only "fair," while only 17% describe it as "good." African Americans and Latinos are most likely to perceive crime and safety as "poor"--by 41% and 47% margins, respectively--while Asians and whites are most inclined to see the situation as" good"--24% and 23%, respectively. Women are most likely to see the crime and safety situation as "poor"--43%--though fully 47% rate it as "fair." By a 14% margin, men are most inclined to view the situation as "good." Paradoxically, 78% of residents say they would recommend their neighborhood as safe to "someone interested in moving in." Fully seven out of 10 say they would recommend the city as a whole as "safe" to somebody contemplating moving here.

When it comes to public perceptions of the two reform chiefs, Bratton's performance was approved by 74% of residents, while Beck's performance was perceived favorably by 59%. Asians were the most likely residents to approve of Bratton's performance--96%--while blacks were most inclined to disapprove at 41% who either "somewhat" or "strongly" took a negative view of his performance. Bratton's approval rating was equally high among women and men with more than seven out of 10 residents of both genders approving the way he conducted himself. Beck's performance as chief is strongly approved by both whites--65%--and Latinos--58%. However, more than six out of 10 African American residents either "somewhat" or "strongly" disapprove of the way he's done his job.

Negative perceptions in the black community may mirror recent criticism of Beck's handling of police shootings by Black Lives Matter, a group that another of our surveys found is supported by fully 68% of the city's residents. Similarly, some of Bratton's higher rating may be attributable to his skills as a communicator, which are the best of any big city chief in recent memory; Beck, by contrast, is a more understated "cop's cop," who "bleeds blue" and has deep familial roots in the department.

Garcetti will be approaching his decision on Beck's replacement from a relatively strong political position of his own, since 56% of L.A.'s residents assign his performance on crime and public safety an A or B grade, and his rating in this area has climbed by 12 percentage points over the past two years.

The mayor and his commissioners will have to weigh the obvious questions: Would an outsider or LAPD veteran be best positioned to build on the reformers' progress? While our surveys do not find any strong sentiment for a chief of any particular ethnicity, they do suggest that someone with strong communication skills and a willingness to build greater trust among African Americans would be a good candidate. From an historic standpoint, there never has been a Latino chief nor a woman, and first's tend to build good will and political capital.

KTLA

Pedestrian Deaths Surge In LA Overall Traffic Fatalities Down Slightly

Pedestrian deaths in Los Angeles have surged more than 80% in the first two years of a high-profile initiative launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti to eliminate traffic fatalities, new data show.

In 2015, 74 people on foot were killed by drivers in Los Angeles. That figure rose to 134 in 2017, the highest number in more than 15 years.

Overall, the number of bicyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and drivers killed in collisions on city streets fell last year by 6%, to 244, according to preliminary police data released by the city Transportation Department.

In 2015, Garcetti signed an executive order creating the Vision Zero initiative, which set the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths on city streets by 2025. It called for reductions of 20% by 2017 and 50% by 2020.

LA Times
Pedestrian deaths surge in LA, overall traffic fatalities down slightly
By Laura Nelson
Pedestrian deaths in Los Angeles have surged more than 80% in the first two years of a high-profile initiative launched by Mayor Eric Garcetti to eliminate traffic fatalities, new data show.
In 2015, 74 people on foot were killed by drivers in Los Angeles. That figure rose to 134 in 2017, the highest number in more than 15 years.
Overall, the number of bicyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists and drivers killed in collisions on city streets fell last year by 6%, to 244, according to preliminary police data released by the city Transportation Department.
In 2015, Garcetti signed an executive order creating the Vision Zero initiative, which set the ambitious goal of eliminating traffic deaths on city streets by 2025. It called for reductions of 20% by 2017 and 50% by 2020.
The 6% decline in 2017 falls well short of that goal, and the city's slow progress suggests reducing fatalities by half in the next three years will be difficult.
"Every life is important and we must keep pushing to do better," Garcetti said Tuesday in a statement to The Times, saying he was proud the city had reduced deaths overall in 2017. "Safety is our top priority, and we will continue to set bold goals."
The 2017 statistics were included in a report scheduled to be discussed Wednesday at a City Council transportation committee hearing.
The L.A. data are on par with national trends, which show that more pedestrians are dying, and drivers are more distracted, Transportation Department spokesman Oliver Hou said in an email.
Figures on traffic deaths across the country are not yet available for 2017, but in the previous year, pedestrian deaths rose 9% nationally and 42% in Los Angeles.
Los Angeles officials spent more than a year studying collision data to pinpoint the city's most dangerous streets for pedestrians and cyclists, and worked in 2017 to make changes along 40 of those corridors. Many are broad thoroughfares, including North Broadway in Chinatown, 3rd Street in Koreatown and Sepulveda Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley.
Officials have focused on those areas because pedestrians and cyclists represent an outsize number of the city's traffic fatalities. From 2012 to 2016, people on foot were involved in 8% of the traffic collisions in L.A. but represented 44% of the deaths, the Transportation Department said.
Last year, the city made 1,120 changes to streets and intersections, Hou said. Hundreds of crosswalks were modified, including four that now allow pedestrians to cross all directions at once, and 144 digital signs were installed that tell drivers their speeds.
Speed is often the determining factor in whether someone survives a car crash. When struck by a car moving at 20 mph, a pedestrian has a 90% chance of survival, but when hit by a vehicle going 40 mph, the chance of survival falls to 20%, according to a federal study of crash data.
The city also changed the timing on 67 traffic lights to give pedestrians the walk signal several seconds before drivers receive a green light. That change — known as a "leading pedestrian interval" — is designed to cut down on drivers hitting pedestrians in crosswalks.
The increase in pedestrian deaths isn't surprising for anyone who walks in Los Angeles and has had a near miss with a speeding driver, said Emilia Crotty, executive director of Los Angeles Walks, a pedestrian advocacy organization. Projects that have been shown to reduce pedestrian injuries, including so-called "scramble crosswalks" that allow people to cross in all directions, should not be delayed by concerns about commute times from local officials, Crotty said.
The most high-profile street safety project in 2017, along a handful of streets on L.A.'s Westside, sparked a wave of protests from residents and commuters, two lawsuits and an effort to recall Councilman Mike Bonin, who represents the area. Eventually, the city reversed most of the improvements.
The advocates who fought the Playa del Rey project said they were interested in helping other local groups fight street changes that would affect commute times in other parts of the city. Street safety advocates worried that the backlash could set the Vision Zero effort back by several years.
The city "learned some very hard lessons" last year, Crotty said. "We need our City Council members to champion this issue like the life-and-death situation that it is. Whatever negative pushback there is — perhaps from some drivers — this is what we need to protect the most vulnerable people in our neighborhoods."

Washington Times
Normalizing The Chaos In California
By Tammy Bruce
Liberal policy failure is all around us and destroys lives every day. In California, the destruction of society and individual lives has become so overwhelming, the state's liberal overseers now spend their time covering up where they can and normalizing the chaos as much as possible.
Since 2013, when now-liberal icon Eric Garcetti was elected mayor of Los Angeles, and the nation had just re-elected Barack Obama as president, Los Angeles' homeless population skyrocketed 46 percent. During the Obama years,

where unchallenged liberalism was pushed and accepted (wrongly) as the new normal, we saw the leftist economic menace rage through the entire nation, destroying businesses and the full-time jobs that went with them.
In California, the destruction is particularly acute. As the social structure in major cities continues to break down, the state focuses on banning plastic straws, whether to release from prison a mass murderer from the Manson family, while cheering at becoming as sanctuary state.
Just this week, the Los Angeles Times issued an editorial titled, "Los Angeles homeless crisis is a national disgrace." Actually, it's not — it's a California disgrace. The editorial exemplifies the refusal of liberals to not just admit their responsibility to social destruction, but an inability to even relate to reality.
The Times editorial board chided, in part, "Today, a greater and greater proportion of people living on the streets are there because of bad luck or a series of mistakes, or because the economy forgot them — they lost a job or were evicted or fled an abusive marriage just as the housing market was growing increasingly unforgiving."
They refer to the "economy" as though it's a mean thing with a life of its own, and simply "forgot" people. There's no need to consider the actual people in charge of policy and the economy. That lost job, or domestic strife, a mean housing market are all pointed at, as though they were all dropped on earth by Martians.

LA Times
Letters: With a homeless crisis in LA, now is not the time for Mayor Garcetti to campaign for President
To the editor: Thanks to the Los Angeles Times for addressing the city's homelessness problem and calling it what it really is: a national disgrace. ("Los Angeles' homelessness crisis is a national disgrace," editorial, Feb. 25)
Not a single person in the city, the county or the entire Los Angeles region would disagree with your assessment.
And while we all sit back and watch the crises continue to grow, Mayor Eric Garcetti, apparently campaigning for higher office, is out making speeches in South Carolina, spending less time than he should trying to end the catastrophe in his own backyard.
Just shameful.
Mario Rochin, Studio City
To the editor: Though the brilliantly written clarion call that was this Sunday's full-page editorial about the staggering homelessness crisis in this city and county was years late in coming, it was heartening to see it there blazing with urgency.
This is not the job of just politicians and social workers to face and overcome; it is the responsibility of every single citizen to get involved in whatever meaningful way we can. Any society that allows so many of our fellow humans to suffer so badly is morally bankrupt and cruel.
Let's each of us become part of the solution.
Walter Dominguez, Los Angeles
To the editor: I am guilty of looking the other way, of rolling up my windows from downtown Los Angeles to Beverly Hills and West L.A. I have become irritated, disgusted and angry.
Sunday's editorial should make those of us that have looked the other way feel a sense of guilt.
We have elected people to office to take care of these issues, and they have failed us. We have failed for not doing our part.
We need leadership to give us all direction of what each of us can do.
Thank you, Times Editorial Board.
Daniel S. Mitrovich, Culver City
To the editor: I wonder how many of your print readers glanced, horrified at the headline and the grim pictures of your editorial, and simply closed the Main News section and picked up the Calendar or Arts and Books section while putting such grim realism immediately to one side.
I was one of those readers, but I finally forced myself to go back and read your excellent and heart-wrenching editorial. Good God, what does it take to give a helping hand, rather than a buck here and there, or to force our "thoughts and prayers" politicians to do something, anything, worthwhile?
Charles Ruebsamen, Rancho Cucamonga

Daily Breeze
Llewellyn confirmed to top LA city post, says he will help leaders make hard choices
By Elizabeth Chou
Veteran city official Rich Llewellyn will serve in Los Angeles' top post, advising the council and the mayor on their options for tackling major challenges that lay ahead, including the city's growing homeless crisis and infrastructure needs.
The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday voted 15-0 to confirm the mayor's appointment of Llewellyn as the City Administrative Officer. One of the key roles of the position is to work with the council and the mayor on developing a city budget each year.
The CAO also represents city leaders in labor negotiations with municipal employee unions, including those that represent police officers, firefighters and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power workers.
Llewellyn told the council that his role is to help city leaders "make hard choices," whether it has to do with public safety, homelessness or other matters.
He said he will strive to serve as an "independent" voice, and "sometimes we just have to say no," which means "you need to make even harder choices."

"And we're there to help you," he said.
The CAO's office also coordinates the city's homeless initiatives and strategies, including the construction of permanent supportive housing and mobile restroom programs.
"The infrastructure needs, and the equity needs in the city are very real. We all go outside and see the tents and we need to do something about that."
— Rich Llewellyn, newly confirmed L.A. City Administrative Officer
Llewellyn, who has filled the CAO post on an interim basis for the past year, told council members earlier this week that several challenges lay ahead for the city, including the ability to "still deliver service, when we have all these pressing needs and not enough money to do it."
Llewellyn said department general managers are tasked with coming up with ways their staff can "to do their jobs cheaper, faster and more efficiently every day."
He said his staff are eyeing an anticipated downturn in the economy, which may affect the city's revenues and its ability to address the city's biggest challenges, such as homelessness and its "tremendous infrastructure needs."
"We're all worried about when the economy is going to slow, and whether it's going to be a dive or a lull," he said. "Most economists seem to believe it's going to be a slowdown, not a dive, but we certainly don't want to go back there."
He said other pressures on the city include the "rising gap between the rich and poor, which is ultimately driving us down in Los Angeles, and we just have to figure out a way around it."
"The infrastructure needs, and the equity needs in the city are very real," he added. "We all go outside and see the tents and we need to do something about that."
One area the city has made some headway on is reducing liability costs, according to Llewellyn.
Llewellyn started working for the city 17 years ago in 2001, first as chief of staff for then-councilman Eric Garcetti. He then went on to manage City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo's office. He also led Councilman Paul Koretz's staff, before being tapped again by Garcetti to lead the staffing of his mayoral office and his legal team. Prior to going to the city, he spent about 12 years with the county working for District Attorney Gil Garcetti — Eric Garcetti's father — and County Supervisor Edmund Edelman.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River

Preserving Frank Lloyd Wright's Place In Los Angeles Architectural History
A Censored Sculpture Of Imprisoned Native American Activist Leonard Peltier Has Taken Up Residence In LA

Economic Development

Snap wants out of Venice

Energy, Climate Change & Environmental Justice

Costs from Aliso Canyon gas blowout nears $1 billion
Climate Change And Sustainability Event Comes Downtown

Health, Education & Neighborhood Councils

LAUSD superintendent search moves ahead quickly-application deadline is March 14
LA Chugs Ahead With Plan To Fund Kindergarten Savings Account

Homelessness & Poverty

Homeless Hotels
For LA County's mobile mental health teams, persistence is key to leading homeless to help
Slammin Da Bones: Domino tournament gives skid row players a chance for friendly competition
Big names lending support to fight homelessness

Housing

An 88 unit apartment planned in Sun Valley amid rising home prices
Glassy 888 South Hope tower should be done this summer
Southern California home prices in January rose at their fastest pace in 44 months
Welcome news for homebuyers: Prices went down in January
Southern California home prices jump 11.4% amid tight listings
Los Angeles County houses go to escrow at fastest speed in 8 months

Public Safety

Commercial building housing garment business damaged by early morning fire
Firefighter Injured While Battling Blaze At Clothing Business In Downtown Los Angeles
Firefighter Injured In Downtown Los Angeles Commercial Building Fire
Large fire damages downtown commercial building
Raging Fire Burns Through Clothing Business In Downtown Los Angeles
Fire damages commercial building in Downtown LA, firefighter injured
Man shot to death by LAPD in Panorama City reportedly suicidal

The Central City Crime Report
How a popular Pacoima lookout spot became a neighborhood's drive through nightmare
Man posing as rideshare driver raped at least 7 women, police allege
Fake rideshare driver accused of 7 women in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles
Stolen car suspect crashes into vehicle after high speed chase in Mid City
Boyle Heights Jogger Detained, Cited During Hunt For Suspect That Drove Into Metro Tunnel

Trade, Travel & Tourism
LA's bid to be host city for 2026 World Cup takes a step forward
LAX employees concerned over distant parking, car break ins
Flames force flight headed to LAX to make emergency landing

Transportation
Los Angeles' notorious traffic problem explained in graphics
The most exciting construction project in LA right now is the Regional Connector
Video: pouring the concrete at Grand Ave Arts/ Bunker Hill Station
Goldstein Investigation: MTA Spends Thousands On Catered Meals, Talent Show
Sneak peek of the future artwork at Martin Luther King Jr station

LOS ANGELES CITY GOVERNMENT
Los Angeles City Council and members
Coco Day In LA: Actor Sings At City Hall To Usher In Feb 27 As Coco Day
Coco Day celebrated at LA City Hall

Los Angeles City Government
What To Expect From The New LAFC Stadium

LOS ANGELES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
LA County leaders look to regulate short term rentals

Los Angeles County
LA County isn't doing enough to protect people living near oil wells, study says
Living near oil wells can cause health problems, LA County believes it has solutions
LA County to expand program aimed at stopping school shootings before they start

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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Wed, Feb 28, 2018 at 8:03 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]
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Eric Garcetti #MayorOfLA
Riki Esquer
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Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org> Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 7:54 AM
To: Clips <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>
Cc: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti
LA TIMES: How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice
LA TIMES: Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike
NY TIMES: The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors
CNBC: 2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS: Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races

LA Times
How Garcetti picked his police chief: interviews, homework and plenty of advice
By: Dave Zahniser, Cindy Chang, and Richard Winton
Last Monday morning, Los Angeles civic leaders were in suspense.

Mayor **Eric Garcetti** had said he would probably announce his pick for police chief that day.

Text messages and phone calls flew between people who were usually in the know. "Have you heard?" "Still no word?"

There was a reason no one had heard. The mayor had not yet made up his mind.

He had been mulling the possibilities for almost a month. This was perhaps the most important hiring decision he would make, at a time when he was considering a bid for president of the United States.

The three finalists for the job — LAPD Deputy Chief Robert Arcos, Bill Scott, chief of the San Francisco Police Department, and LAPD Assistant Chief Michel Moore — were more similar than different. All were LAPD veterans who embraced the kinder, gentler ethos of the post-Rodney King era. Each was a believer in the reforms begun by previous chiefs, promising to deepen ties with minority residents and find ways to reduce the number of shootings by police officers.

Each brought his own distinctive skills, personality and political upsides.

The mayor had consulted dozens of people in the run-up to his decision: law enforcement experts, union presidents, civil rights advocates, nonprofit executives, police officers, and, perhaps most crucial, the man who is vacating the post: Police Chief Charlie Beck.

Garcetti had conducted four rounds of in-person interviews, one with City Council members taking the lead. At one point, he even assigned the three finalists written homework, asking them to outline their ideas on technology, training and other topics.

The clock ticked past noon. Time was running out to convene an afternoon news conference.

At 1:17 p.m., Garcetti picked up his phone. The number he dialed was Moore's.

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On May 2, the city's civilian police commissioners interviewed five LAPD veterans, drawn from 31 applicants for the job. They quickly settled on their top three.

Arcos was genial and empathetic, a product of Atwater Village when it was still gang-ridden and working-class. If chosen, he would make history as the city's first Latino police chief at a time when President Trump's hard-line deportation policies have made some immigrants fearful of law enforcement.

Scott grew up as an African American in Alabama during the civil rights era. After 27 years with the LAPD, he was well-known in South Los Angeles as a leader who viscerally felt the costs of arresting and incarcerating young black men.

And then there was Moore, known as a crime statistics wonk so well-versed in the ins and outs of managing the LAPD's 10,000 sworn officers that his learning curve as chief would essentially be zero.

Moore's father was Basque, and he is listed as Hispanic on department rosters, but his heritage has not played a large role in defining his identity at the LAPD.

Four of the five commissioners ranked Moore first, but that was no guarantee of success. Moore had also been the commission's top choice in 2009, when the job ended up going to Beck.

Beck was not retiring until June 27, but the appointment would need to be confirmed by the City Council, and Garcetti had indicated earlier that he hoped to be finished by the end of May.

The mayor set to work, seeking advice from dozens of people, including council members, immigrant rights advocates, former LAPD Chief Bill Bratton and San Francisco officials such as Dist. Atty. George Gascon.

Moore, who serves as Beck's No. 2, made it clear during the first round of interviews that he wasn't simply seeking to continue the policies of the current administration, Garcetti told The Times later. Instead, he offered his own ideas for running the LAPD.

Moore talked about ways that footage from the body cameras worn by police officers could be better used in the department's training, the mayor recalled. He also discussed how the LAPD could help homeless people get low-level citations expunged on their way to obtaining jobs and permanent housing.

"This was the first time where I could see him as a chief," the mayor said. "He had some pretty bold and brave ideas. It wasn't who people expected Michel Moore to be. Some have said he has a reputation for being real robotic, too tightly wound. But he was very much at ease."

Garcetti also turned to Connie Rice, a civil rights attorney who was once a fierce critic of the LAPD. Rice, a confidante to several mayors, had advocated for Beck the last time around. This time, she said, she did not publicly back a candidate, instead couching the conversation in terms of "if you want 'X,' you can select this candidate. If you want 'Y,' you can pick this person."

Plenty of others stepped forward to let Garcetti know they had a favorite.

Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights, left Garcetti a voicemail early on informing him that she favored Arcos.

Salas, a longtime Garcetti supporter, wanted a police chief from a neighborhood that had "consistently felt the brunt of aggressive policing." And she believed that a Latino police chief would be a countervailing force against a president "who is diminishing and demeaning" people of Mexican descent.

Garcetti also consulted Danny Bakewell, publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, an African American newspaper. Bakewell favored Scott, according to the mayor. So did a group of largely African American pastors who argued that the San Francisco chief has a deep understanding of South Los Angeles, which has had a fraught history with the LAPD.

Still, one of the city's most powerful voices on police reform came out in favor of Moore. Former Los Angeles Urban League President John Mack, who served on the police commission from 2005 to 2013, called Garcetti in late May, after the mayor had finished three rounds of interviews, and spent half an hour making his case.

Mack cited Moore's work on community policing and his track record on combating police brutality and racism in the LAPD. Moore "would build upon the reform, the progress, that's already been made," Mack said he told Garcetti.

As his self-imposed Monday deadline approached, Garcetti also called two police commissioners, Matt Johnson and Steve Soboroff — both Moore supporters.

Johnson said that in several conversations, the mayor delved into each candidate's ability to communicate with residents across the city as well as with the LAPD's rank-and-file officers. He was looking for a chief who would not impose an agenda but would listen and then win people over, Johnson said.

"He was thinking this through from every possible angle," Johnson said of Garcetti.

Soboroff spoke with Garcetti at about 2 p.m. Sunday. The two men discussed criteria such as who you would want at the helm if an earthquake occurred the day after the swearing-in. But Garcetti remained undecided.

Moore had been impressive from the first interview, Garcetti later told The Times. Scott began to look better and better, and Arcos remained in the mix.

"The candidates were so strong that he was really struggling," Soboroff said.

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In recent months, Garcetti, a Democrat, has traveled to early presidential primary states, including Iowa, South Carolina and New Hampshire.

As a Spanish-speaker of Mexican, Italian and Jewish heritage, Garcetti understands Los Angeles' divisive racial history. His father, Gil, was the district attorney who lost the O.J. Simpson prosecution in 1995.

On the national political stage, a police appointment makes a difference only if the chief does very well or very badly, said Jack Pitney, a professor of politics at Claremont McKenna College.

The publicity Garcetti would have gained by appointing Los Angeles' first Latino police chief would not have a lasting effect, particularly since the mayor already appeals to Latino voters with his fluent Spanish, Pitney said.

Moore ticked a box in another key area. As head of patrol operations, he is a major architect of the LAPD's crime-fighting strategies.

"If the chief were particularly ineffective in fighting crime, and people saw Los Angeles as being disorderly, that would be a liability," Pitney said. "Conversely, if the new chief is extremely effective, that's an asset."

The three finalists were not likely to differ substantively on immigration, said Fernando Guerra, a professor at Loyola Marymount University and director of the school's Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles.

But naming Arcos as chief would have been valuable symbolically, amplifying the LAPD's immigrant-friendly message, Guerra said.

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On Monday morning — the day of the expected announcement — Garcetti met with Beck at City Hall, hashing out the strengths of the three candidates in an hour-long conversation.

Beck, who promoted all three finalists to top positions in the LAPD, told The Times that he did not initially reveal his favorite to Garcetti. But partway into the mayor's search, Beck recommended Moore as a reformer who has played a key role in the department's major initiatives, from equipping officers with body cameras to training them how to reduce the use of deadly force.

Beck also thought Garcetti and Moore would get along.

"He has an unparalleled work ethic, an unparalleled breadth of experience with the LAPD. He's super smart and very responsive to those he works with," Beck said of Moore. "The mayor and he are definitely alike in that way."

Garcetti, for his part, said he did not feel that Beck was pushing him in a particular direction. Instead, the chief argued that chemistry and trust would be crucial in the decision.

"He said, 'This is all about who you click with,'" the mayor said.

Garcetti then reached out to Rice again. And he called Craig Lally, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the union that represents LAPD officers. The league did not publicly endorse a candidate, but it was known within City Hall that the group's board favored someone other than Moore.

Lally said he told the mayor that the next chief would have to confront the issue of patrol officers doing more with less, rushing to and from calls that often involve homeless or mentally ill people.

Until the end, Garcetti said, he was not leaning toward Moore but "went back and forth with these three guys pretty consistently."

About 15 minutes after making up his mind, Garcetti called Moore. He followed with a call to Beck. The news media were told to be at City Hall at 3:30 p.m.

As the cameras rolled, Garcetti stepped out, flanked by his new police chief.

LA Times
Garcetti wants to fix some of L.A.'s worst roads. But repairs could hinge on a big fee hike
By: Dave Zahniser
When Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled his yearly budget in April, he promised major progress in an area long neglected by City Hall: reconstruction of the city's worst roads.

Garcetti called for the city to more than double the amount of money it spends on repairs to D- and F-ranked streets, where pavement is so damaged that it frequently needs to be rebuilt — typically at a cost of $1 million or more per lane mile.

Yet a major portion of that work cannot happen unless the City Council increases the fee charged to utilities that rip up and repair the city's streets. And in recent weeks, business leaders have been pushing back on the idea.

Garcetti's spending plan calls for the city to collect $70.7 million in Street Damage Restoration Fees in 2018-19, up from the $8.3 million budgeted for the current year. About $30 million of that new revenue would be spent to repair L.A.'s worst roads, with additional money going to maintain streets that are still in decent condition.

The plan has drawn written objections from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, AT&T and others, who say it needs more public vetting.

The Central City Assn., a group that focuses heavily on real estate development, warned city lawmakers that the fee increase would have a disproportionate effect on housing construction downtown, where streets are being torn up to provide utility hookups for new residential buildings.

"We do not want to see the Street Damage Restoration Fee become a means by which downtown ... becomes the primary funding source for road reconstruction throughout Los Angeles," Jessica Lall, the group's president and chief executive, wrote in a letter in May.

About 25% of L.A.'s streets, or about 7,000 lane miles, are considered to be in poor condition, according to the city's most recent evaluation.

The Street Damage Restoration Fee was created in 1998 to help the city offset the cost incurred when utilities cut into public streets. Public works officials say those cuts, even when they are refilled, cause pavement to degrade at a faster rate, forcing the city to make additional repairs.

Although businesses have been the most vocal, the biggest effect could ultimately be felt by the Department of Water and Power, which frequently performs work on underground water pipes and electrical lines.

If the increase is approved, the city-owned utility is expected to spend nearly $38 million annually on street damage fees, according to an analysis prepared for city lawmakers.

The DWP, whose board is composed of mayoral appointees, has voiced no public objections to the proposal. But Jack Humphreville, a frequent critic of city spending, called the increase a "revenue grab" by the city's elected officials — one that will result in higher bills for DWP customers.

"They're ramrodding this thing through, and the ratepayers are going to get hosed," said Humphreville, who belongs to the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, a group that appears before lawmakers each year to present its views on the city budget.

Humphreville questioned whether the fee increase is aimed at making up for funds lost when Garcetti and the City Council agreed to scale back the amount of money the DWP pays the city each year to balance the budget. The reduction was part of a legal settlement backed by lawmakers last year.

Garcetti and other city officials say there's no connection between the rise in the street damage fee and last year's reduction in the DWP payment. They say officials have spent years studying the need for the city to recoup all of the costs incurred when utilities dig trenches on public rights-of-way.

"When utilities and telecom companies cut into our streets, they should be the ones paying to fix the damage," Garcetti

spokesman Alex Comisar said in an email to The Times. "Right now, the city has to cover more than 90% of what it costs to fully restore the street after the work on an underground pipe, cable or gas line is done."

Comisar said Garcetti's proposal was spurred by a 2014 audit from City Controller Ron Galperin, which concluded that the city had missed out on up to $190 million in damage fees from utilities that performed street work since 1998.

In that report, auditors concluded the fee had not been calculated in a way that reflected all of the costs borne by the city from utility repairs.

"It's been 12 years since this [fee] has been reset, so we have to catch up," said Kevin James, a Garcetti appointee who presides over the Board of Public Works, which recommended that the fee be increased and reworked. "I agree with the controller — we should have done it years ago, but we didn't."

Still, the City Council is hedging its bets on whether the city will receive all of the fee revenue planned by the mayor for the coming fiscal year, which starts July 1.

When they approved Garcetti's budget May 21, city lawmakers ensured that more than $19 million in repairs planned for D- and F-rated streets cannot move ahead without another council vote — a move designed to ensure the money is available to pay for the work.

Some council members have declined to commit themselves to the fee hike envisioned by the mayor, saying that they want to study it more closely.

The fee for ripping up residential streets ranges from $5.18 to $7.78 per square foot, depending on how recently a street has been repaired. Under the proposal heading to the council, it would be increased to $8.24 per square foot, Comisar said.

On major streets, such as Sunset, Wilshire and Venice boulevards, the fee would be raised to $19.44 per square foot. That fee currently ranges from $14.18 to $21.26, depending on when the most recent repairs occurred.

Business groups have also questioned Garcetti's push to change the way the street damage fees would be charged. Under the proposal, utilities would pay a fee not just for an area where a trench is dug, but for any part of the street that sits within 5 feet of that trench.

City officials say that when a trench is cut and refilled, nearby soil underneath the street shifts, reducing support for the pavement. That causes it to become weakened over time, requiring more frequent repairs, they say.

Garcetti's appointees on the Board of Public Works have also suggested that council members look at charging the damage fee to Southern California Gas Co. Such a step would require the negotiation of a new franchise agreement, mayoral aides say.

The gas company has argued that imposition of the fee would lead to higher construction costs that would ultimately be absorbed by its ratepayers.

"Simply put, these additional fees are passed along to our customers and have the potential to significantly impact new businesses or homes requesting utility service," Geoffrey Danker, manager of franchise, fees and planning for the utility, wrote in a letter to city lawmakers.

NY Times

The 1st 2020 Race Is Underway: Scrambling for New York Donors

By: Shane Goldmacher

Senator Elizabeth Warren has come calling as recently as April. Kamala Harris, the first-term senator of California, has made repeated visits, starting as early as her third month in office. Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. is also no stranger to the big-money donor world of New York; he was here in April — his third such visit in three months.

It will be months before Mr. Biden, Ms. Harris, Ms. Warren or most potential presidential aspirants will barnstorm across the farmlands of Iowa, dig into a low-country boil in South Carolina or field questions at a town-hall meeting in New Hampshire.

But with American presidential races requiring an ever-dizzying amount of money, an early, behind-the-scenes 2020 contest is already taking place: the New York money primary.

Over passed appetizers, intimate dinners and private board room meet-and-greets, a parade of nationally ambitious Democrats have been cycling through the offices and living rooms of the Manhattan money set.

Top New York donors and Democratic fund-raisers, in more than two dozen interviews, said that their phones rarely stop buzzing as candidates blitz one of the densest concentrations of Democratic wealth in the country.

Others calling and visiting include Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor; Mayor **Eric Garcetti** of Los Angeles; former Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts; Gov. Steve Bullock of Montana; and the former Missouri Senate candidate, Jason Kander. Then there are the ambitious locals who already keep their donor lists close at hand: Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and Senators Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

"When a candidate calls me to talk about 'strategy and issues,' you grab hold of your wallet for dear life," said Robert Zimmerman, a prominent New York donor and a member of the Democratic National Committee who has been in touch with multiple prospective candidates.

For now, it is more about making connections than collecting cash, as few donors are committing at this stage. But to run a serious primary campaign, Democrats know they will have to amass tens of millions of dollars in the coming two years. Even if they got started as early as this July (and none of the top tier is expected to get into the race until after the midterms), a candidate would have to raise nearly $55,000 per day to construct a $30 million war chest by the end of 2019.

New York will be crucial to that task. More than $500 million came from the New York City area to political campaigns in the last full election — the most of any single metropolitan region in the country, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. New York State had 15 of the top 50 ZIP codes for giving in the 2016 elections; no other state, even California, had half that many.

While similar donor dynamics are playing out in other affluent liberal enclaves, such as Silicon Valley and Hollywood, the donor chase is especially early and intense here because, for the first time since at least 2004, there is no prohibitive front-runner to corner the market on all that New York campaign cash, a role that Hillary Clinton had played in the last two open Democratic nominating contests.

In March, Mr. Biden was the special guest at a $10,000 per-person dinner benefiting House Democrats, at the home of the billionaire hedge fund manager James S. Chanos. In April, he attended a private fund-raising lunch at the home of a major Democratic donor, Dennis Mehiel, for his political action committee.

The night after Mr. Biden's April visit, Ms. Warren mingled with donors at the Manhattan home of Mark Green, a former New York City public advocate, the official reason being her 2018 re-election bid (for which she has already stockpiled $15 million). A few months earlier, Meyer S. Frucher, the vice chairman of Nasdaq, hosted another fund-raising reception for Ms. Warren, according to people familiar with the gatherings.

Many donors said they gravitated toward politicians focused on the 2018 elections. Laetitia Garriott de Cayeux, who opened her Murray Hill home to Mr. Biden for the February event, said she did so "because I see Joe Biden going to every corner of the country to get Democrats elected in 2018."

Sarah Kovner, an influential Democratic fund-raiser in the city, said she ignores those too focused on the presidential campaign. "Fine — but not now, not from me. Not with Jon Tester in trouble and Claire McCaskill and Kyrsten Sinema in need," she said, rattling off the names of Democrats in key Senate races. "That's what I'm concentrating on."

Almost every politician visiting New York can claim a purpose other than their own unspoken ambition — Mr. Biden for his PAC, Ms. Warren for her re-election.

Mr. McAuliffe, a prolific and voracious fund-raiser who was once the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has been raising money for a new group focused on redistricting. But when Mr. McAuliffe recently met with donors at an event that the longtime Clinton adviser, Douglas J. Band, helped put together, his spiel included a half-hour on his successes as governor, according to two attendees, despite saying he was focused entirely on the midterms.

Ms. Harris, who was sworn into her Senate seat in January 2017, trekked to New York two months into her term to put on a free "thank you" event for her big New York contributors at the Regency Hotel in March 2017. That summer, Michael Kempner, a public-relations executive and top Democratic bundler, hosted an event for her at his spread in the Hamptons. She and Senator Booker attended another dinner with politically engaged black executives in Bridgehampton, N.Y. More recently, the fashion retailer Lauren Santo Domingo, who is married to a billionaire beer heir, organized an event for Ms. Harris's PAC in February.

Mr. Patrick, now at Bain Capital, the private equity firm made famous for launching Mitt Romney's business career, does not have a political entity he is raising money for, but he has still kept in touch with New York donors, including

attending a donor dinner last spring and an event to mingle with contributors more recently at the Manhattan offices of Morgan Stanley, according to people familiar with the events.

The lone Democratic outlier from the money chase is Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who bypassed large contributors in his 2016 presidential bid and still raised about $230 million, almost entirely from a torrent of small online donations — a model that many Democrats are trying to emulate.

But in an era when a single billionaire can, more or less, sustain a presidential candidate through a super PAC, the courtship of the donor class has anything but slowed.

There is a distinctive hierarchy to this donor dance: the bigger the contributor, the smaller the gathering. Billionaires and the biggest bundlers get almost limitless one-on-one time. The next tranche of mega-millionaires and political financiers get intimate dinners or office gatherings. Larger receptions are for standard-fare contributors.

Ronald Perelman, the billionaire donor, organized a fund-raiser for Ms. Harris's PAC at the offices of his company, MacAndrews & Forbes, last December. Earlier in the year, Mr. Perelman, who contributes to both Republicans and Democrats, had another ambitious Californian, Mr. Garcetti, for a cocktail hour among donors at his estate in the Hamptons.

Mr. Garcetti, who is known to hand out his personal cellphone number to contributors and encourage them to stay in touch, was last in New York in March, a trip that included some private catch-up time with top contributors as he raises money for his federal PAC to help Democrats in the midterms.

Another politician whom donors mentioned as solicitous of New York is Steve Bullock, the governor of Montana. He pitches himself as the rare Democrat who can get elected and get along in a deep red state. He, too, has a federal PAC and has been hiring strategists with national experience.

Other younger politicians, who are far from national figures, are still seeking exposure to the moneyed class of Manhattan, including Pete Buttigieg, the 36-year-old mayor of South Bend, Ind., (four visits already in 2018) and Mr. Kander, the 37-year-old former Missouri secretary of state who lost a Senate race in 2016 (two recent visits included donor events).

As Stu Loeser, a veteran Democratic strategist in New York, put it, "The road to the White House runs down 57th Street."

It is more than a figure of speech. In the 2016 cycle, two of the top five ZIP codes for political giving in America — 10022 and 10019, which span the length of 57th Street across Midtown Manhattan just south of Central Park — combined for $120 million in donations, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

New York contributors say there has not been this much activity since at least 2003, the last open Democratic contest without Mrs. Clinton.

While Mrs. Clinton was seen as holding a near-stranglehold on prominent New York donors, none of the current New York-area politicians considered possible 2020 candidates — Ms. Gillibrand, Mr. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio or Mr. Booker — engender a similar sense of near-absolute loyalty.

"You can analogize this to a dating process in which there are still a lot of blind dates and first dates but not yet a lot of second dates or third dates," said Steven Rattner, a Wall Street executive and veteran Democratic fund-raiser. "Let alone anyone going steady or getting married."

CNBC

2 big reasons high-profile start-ups attract top talent despite US skills gap crisis

By: Julia Boorstin

One of the biggest challenges for the company founders and CEOs, right up there with scaling the company into a sustainable business, is finding qualified employees. Yet those on CNBC's Disruptor 50 list — the 50 companies CNBC believes have the potential to upend multibillion-dollar industries to become the next generation of great public companies — revealed they are actually seeing progress when it comes to hiring.

This is according to CNBC's annual survey of CNBC's Disruptor 50 companies, conducted from April 16 to May 16, 2018. More than 60 percent of respondents said it's easier right now to find qualified employees to fill open positions than it was a year ago; 11 percent went so far to say it's "a lot easier."

That's a little surprising, as small-business owners continue to report that finding qualified workers isa huge challenge.A May study of small businesses by the National Federation of Independent Business, a trade group

representing 325,000 small and independent business owners across America, one third of small businesses have a job opening they can't fill, and nearly a quarter of all small-business owners claim that finding qualified workers is their single most important business problem. The April 2018 NFIB report revealed that while 57 percent of small businesses are hiring or planning to hire, 88 percent of them report difficulties finding qualified candidates.

So why are Disruptors having an easier time? One reason could be the fact that these fast growing, higher-profile companies are just more appealing to applicants than the average small business. In fact, three of this year's Disruptor 50 companies, and five now-public former Disruptors, appeared on LinkedIn's 2018 List of 50 Top Companies where professionals want to work.

It could point to an even more specific reason. A March 2017 study from PwC found a majority of women (and an almost equal majority of men) weigh the diversity of company leadership and workforce when they decide whether or not to work for an employer. So it might not be a coincidence that many of the Disruptor 50 companies that say it's easier or even "a lot easier" to find qualified employees — like Rent the Runway and Thinx — have female CEOs.

A recent Global Information Security Workforce study supports their findings, at least in the information technology sector: Its study claims that as many as 1.8 million IT jobs could be unfilled by 2022. That is 20 percent more than what the same study predicted two years earlier.

Rodney Williams, the CEO and co-founder of three-time disruptor Lisnr, this year at No. 22, has reaped the benefits of being a desired place to work, especially in Cincinnati, where Lisnr was founded.

"In Cincinnati we were able to attract the superstars," said Williams, speaking at CNBC's Disruptor 50 Roadshow event in Los Angeles last month. Still, he said, the company struggled to fill management positions. "We had a challenge finding talent that had done this before, who knew the nuances of ... taking a business to the next step." Lisnr has since set up shop in Oakland, California, where it's been able to tap the Silicon Valley talent pool.

Back in Los Angeles, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said the city's assortment of universities helps ensure that local tech entrepreneurs can find plenty of talent, but there's a dramatic hiring gap in other industries. "What keeps me up is not whether tech companies will have those workers, but closing the gap in other places." By this he means finding qualified workers in fields other than in tech.

"We have trade jobs. We have things at the port where 40 percent of the goods come into America. We want to make sure those high-paying jobs stay there for the future. Electrifying our trucks and our logistics fleet to reduce pollution. Those are the gaps I think that I want to fill in terms of skills, to be able to put people into community college and find those levels."

He added: "If we are going to build 40 years' worth of rapid transit lines, we can get those workers from other states. But we should be growing them here so they don't need a college degree to have a middle-class job as a laborer, electrician, a construction worker."

Nationwide, however, the information technology sector has the highest rate of job openings among all sectors of the U.S. economy. The Labor Department's most recent survey of Job Openings and Labor Turnover (also known as the JOLT Survey) reveals there were 178,000 open tech jobs in April, up more than 50 percent from April 2017.

So while some Disruptor 50 companies may have their pick of the best candidates, tech firms in general have increasingly more open positions, with increasingly fewer people available to fill them.

San Jose Mercury News
Election 2018: Environmental measures were big winners in California, Bay Area races
By: Paul Rogers
Most voters already know that Gavin Newsom and Dianne Feinstein — who easily advanced to the November general election in their races for governor and U.S. senator — were among the big winners in Tuesday's California primary election.

But there's another group also popping the champagne this week: environmentalists.

Across California and the Bay Area, environmental groups had one of their best elections ever. They won nearly every major race they contested, securing billions of dollars for parks, beaches, water projects and public transportation, and at the same time helped kill plans to develop Silicon Valley hillsides and a proposal to change the way the state spends money from its greenhouse gas auctions.

"People want open space and parks, they want clean air and clean water," said Deb Callahan, executive director of the Bay Area Open Space Council, a coalition of more than 50 parks agencies and land trusts. "And clearly people are

willing to pay for it. There's an understanding that you need to invest in priorities."

The biggest victory statewide for conservation groups was the passage of Proposition 68, a $4.1 billion parks and water bond that voters easily approved 56-44 percent.

The measure only passed in 27 of California's 58 counties, but it won by huge margins of 65 percent or more in most Bay Area counties and 61 percent in Los Angeles County, which easily offset "no" votes from the Central Valley and counties such as Riverside and San Bernardino, where it narrowly failed.

Proposition 68 is the first statewide funding measure for parks approved by California voters in 12 years, with about $2.8 billion headed to parks and wildlife, and $1.3 billion going to water and flood control projects, much of it to be handed out by the Legislature and state agencies through competitive grants.

Environmental groups donated $6.4 million on the Yes on 68 campaign, with major funding coming from the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Save the Redwoods League and the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Green groups faced opposition from taxpayer groups but no organized campaign against them. They spent heavily on social media, blanketed farmers markets, ran volunteer-driven phone banks and cultivated events with high-profile supporters such as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

They also secured endorsements from business groups, including the California Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley Leadership Group and Orange County Business Council.

The measure will mean millions for urban parks, soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, bike paths and public swimming pools — with a special emphasis on low-income urban areas. Also slated for funding are trails, beaches, forests, visitor centers and campgrounds at state and regional parks, and new funding for groundwater cleanup, flood control and drinking water treatment plants.

Although business groups regularly battle with environmentalists in other states, many in the Bay Area and Southern California are increasingly finding common ground, said Larry Gerston, a professor emeritus of political science at San Jose State University. That's because they see parks, recreation, clean air and clean water as a "quality of life" selling point to lure and keep talented workers, particularly in the face of high housing costs and traffic.

"There's a package," Gerston said. "It's salary, it's benefits, but it's also the weather and a better environment, and the ocean and parks."

Among the other big wins by environmental groups Tuesday:

- Proposition 72, a tax break for people who install rain barrels or other systems on their rooftops to conserve water, passed 84-16 percent.
- Proposition 70 went down in a landslide defeat, 64-36 percent. It would have allowed Republicans in Sacramento more of a say in how the state spends the money it generates from the "cap and trade" permits it auctions to oil refineries, factories and other large emitters of greenhouse gases. Environmentalists worried it would mean less money for public transit, solar rebates and other conservation measures.
- Measure B and C in San Jose. An attempt by developers to allow the construction of 910 senior housing units on vacant land in the city's Evergreen area, failed 58-42 percent. The measure was opposed by environmental groups who said it would transform 200 acres of hillsides into a wealthy gated community without environmental review. San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who also opposed Measure B, led efforts to qualify Measure C, which makes it more difficult to develop open areas in Evergreen, Almaden Valley and Coyote Valley. It passed 60-40 percent.
- Regional Measure 3. A $3 toll increase over the next six years at seven bridges that cross San Francisco Bay, but not the Golden Gate Bridge, to raise $4.5 billion for transportation projects, won 54-46 percent. The measure was backed by business groups but also had the support of Save the Bay, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenbelt Alliance and the League of Conservation Voters. Although it funds freeway improvements, it also will expand BART, Caltrain, ferry service, buses and bike lanes. "We've got to reduce our reliance on cars to cut greenhouse emissions and roadway runoff pollution to the bay," said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay.
- Measure C in Napa County, which would limit the number of oak trees that vineyard owners can cut down on hillsides, narrowly led Friday night 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent, despite farmers and the wine industry heavily outspending conservation groups.
- In Davis, Measure H, which renewed a $49 annual parcel tax for parks, bike paths, swimming pools and street trees for another 20 years, was approved 73-28 percent percent.
- In Santa Cruz, 76 percent of voters approved Measure U, an advisory measure that opposes recently announced plans by UC-Santa Cruz to expand campus enrollment by 10,000 students to 28,000 by 2040.

- In Martinez, Measure I, which requires voter approval to develop areas zoned for open space or parks, led late Friday, but by tiny margin more than Measure F, which requires voter approval for such changes but only on publicly owned land. Measure I had 51.37 percent and Measure F had 50.87 percent of the vote, yet thousands of mail-in ballots in Contra Costa County remain to be counted, so the results could change. The measure with the most votes will prevail if both pass.

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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 9:36 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

[Quoted text hidden]
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Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org> Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 8:00 AM
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti
LA DAILY NEWS: Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?

LA Daily News
Eric Garcetti would 'look seriously' at a U.S. Senate bid; what else could his future hold?
By: Kevin Modesti

At the City Hall press conference in January where **Eric Garcetti** took the unusual step of announcing that he was not a candidate for president, a reporter asked if he was ruling out a White House run forever or only in 2020.

The silly question drew a silly answer.

"Garcetti 2040! I'd like to say that right now," the Los Angeles mayor said, laughing.

It's pretty obvious that Garcetti aspires to run for president in a year to be determined.

The serious question is what the 48-year-old Democrat could and should aspire to do between now and then.

Speaking with Southern California News Group editorial board members and reporters on March 11, Garcetti was asked if he'd rather be California governor or a U.S. senator, offices for which his name was floated before the 2018 elections won by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

Garcetti said he loves an executive role like mayor and governor, but then bluntly expressed his interest in one of the state's two U.S. Senate positions.

"I would look at that seriously if a Senate seat opened up," Garcetti said.

Re-elected in 2017 with a record 81.4 percent of the vote, Garcetti has four years to go in what he calls a "supersized second term," which lasts until July 2022 because of L.A.'s decision to move city elections to even-numbered years to coincide with state and federal balloting.

But speculation about his future abounds, given Garcetti's relative youth, the prominence that comes with being mayor of a city of 4 million people, and his pointed refusal to rule out leaving City Hall early to pursue higher office.

"The sky is the limit," said Wendy Greuel, who was an L.A. city councilwoman and city controller when Garcetti was a city councilman, and lost to Garcetti in the 2013 runoff for mayor. "He's dynamic. He's inspiring. He's someone who's going to continue to be a leader on the national stage."

Possibilities

One problem with rising to prominence as mayor of a city as big as L.A. is that there aren't too many ways to rise higher. There's governor, U.S. senator and president. Everything else is a move sideways or a step down.

"You go up. You don't go down," said Fernando Guerra, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University, channeling a politician's thinking.

Guerra said the possibilities for Garcetti begin with a U.S. Senate bid because that's the higher-profile office likely to open up next.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein was re-elected in 2018, so her term expires after the 2024 election. She'd be 91 then, and

would be expected to retire, though she wouldn't be required to. The timing would be perfect for Garcetti.

Sen. Kamala Harris was elected in 2016, so she'd be up for re-election in 2022. But she's a contender for the Democratic nomination for president, and she'd leave the Senate if she won the presidency. Garcetti almost certainly would be willing to leave the mayor's office early for Harris' job.

If either senator left office early, California law would require Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint a replacement, who would serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide election. The appointee could run in the election and probably would have a leg up on any challengers.

Observers think the list of people Newsom would consider might include Garcetti, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Burbank, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Dublin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

A run for governor was a possibility for Garcetti until he decided in October 2017 not to enter the already-crowded 2018 race. Now, with Newsom eligible for a second term in 2022, Garcetti wouldn't challenge a fellow Democrat.

Then, Guerra said, there are "lateral" moves that couldn't be ruled out.

-If a Democrat wins the White House, Garcetti could be considered for a cabinet post, running a federal department. Guerra said the most likely for an ex-mayor would be secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), secretary of Transportation, or secretary of Energy.

-Another option in a Democratic administration: Garcetti as ambassador to the United Nations or a foreign country. Garcetti likes to remind listeners about his foreign-policy chops, given his Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and teaching on the subject at Occidental College and USC, his work in military intelligence as a Navy Reserve lieutenant, and the overseas interactions of an L.A. mayor.

-A statewide office below governor. But secretary of state and state controller are the only two that would be open in 2022, as Garcetti's mayoral term expires. "I don't think either of those positions is appealing to him," Guerra said.

-The L.A. County Board of Supervisors. But the only two seats up for election in 2022 are held by Democrats eligible for another term.

For Garcetti to keep an eventual presidential run in his sights, Guerra said, "He has to stay in the game. Out of sight, out of mind."

National view

While testing the presidential waters, Garcetti took 12 trips to 10 different states to campaign for at least 21 candidates around the country. In the process, he raised $2.6 million for Democratic efforts through his political action and campaign committees, fundraising events and fundraising emails, according to Yusef Robb, his political adviser.

Garcetti insists he didn't decide not to run because he couldn't win, but because he felt he couldn't campaign while running a major city.

His supporters hope he can influence the Democratic race from the sidelines.

One way he could do that is with an endorsement before the March 3, 2020 California primary. Speaking with SCNG editorial board members and reporters at the Los Angeles Daily News' office in Woodland Hills, Garcetti said he's likely to pick from among five candidates he counts as "close friends." He named them in this order: New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Harris, former Vice President Joe Biden, and former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro.

Garcetti also can play the role of rainmaker, connecting candidates with campaign contributors in the L.A. area.

And Garcetti could seek to shape the Democratic platform through efforts such as Accelerator for America, the non-profit he founded with Rick Jacobs in 2017 that calls itself "the R&D arm of cities and mayors," promoting city-style transit and infrastructure projects and economic development to the nation.

Oh, and he can continue to do his job as mayor.

L.A.'s 42nd mayor will be out of office before supporters and critics see the upshot of what Garcetti touts as his biggest accomplishments, such as the 2016 passage of county Measure M (approving a half-cent sales tax to fund mass-

transit projects) and city Proposition HHH (approving $1.2 billion in bonds to 10,000 units of housing for the chronically homeless), and securing the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Critics argue that Garcetti has done little to earn consideration for higher office, and cite rampant homelessness as a sign of his ineffectiveness.

"None of that stuff comes to fruition," David Hernandez, a Republican activist in the San Fernando Valley who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 2018, said of Garcetti's promises about reducing homelessness and traffic deaths.

Hernandez added: "In spite of my opinion of his track record, he would be someone to contend with (in a statewide election). He's got the young Beto (O'Rourke), (Barack) Obama charisma. He can be Jewish when he wants to be, he can be Hispanic when he wants to be. He's out of Central Casting."

Hernandez said he expects Feinstein to retire early to allow Newsom to appoint Garcetti to the Senate.

Such speculation aside, Garcetti supporters see him riding high, his stature raised and voters' appetites whetted by the mere speculation about a presidential run and his role in ending the teachers' strike largely praised.

So, what now?

Robb said Garcetti will answer the question "when the time is right," but for now, "from the platform of the mayor's office he is serving his constituents in a way that sets models for the rest of the state and the rest of the country."

Said Garcetti: "I'm not one of those politicians, to my probably discredit, who thinks very far ahead. It has to feel right to me, and not be about a careful plot and plan."

If it ends with a presidential run in 2040, Garcetti will have the last laugh.

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Eric Garcetti @MayorOfLA

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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Mon, Mar 25, 2019 at 10:55 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong <[redacted]> Thu, Aug 3, 2017 at 3:21 AM
To: Abigail Marquez <abigail.marquez@lacity.org>, Carolyn comcast [redacted], Carolyn Hissong <[redacted], Cecilia Cabello home <[redacted], Charles Small <charles.small@lacity.org>, David Ou <david.ou@lacity.org>, Dina Chang <dina.chang@lacity.org>, Frank Bush <frank.bush@lacity.org>, Ilir Lita <ilir.lita@mayorsfundla.org>, Jessica Alvarado <jessica.alvarado@lacity.org>, Karen Penara <karen.penera@lacity.org>, Karlo Marcelo <karlo.marcelo@mayorsfundla.org>, Kelly Jones <kelly.jones@lacity.org>, Kenneth Lee <kenneth.lee.intern@lacity.org>, Kylie Teller <Kylie.Teller@mayorsfundla.org>, Lynette Amerian <[redacted]>, Marie DeAeth <Marie.DeAeth@mayorsfundla.org>, MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Omar Gonzales <omar.gonzales@lacity.org>, Ramon Covarrubias <ramon.covarrubias@lacity.org>, Ricardo Vasquez <ricardo.vazquez@lacity.org>, Tammy Barreras <tammy.barreras@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Eric Garcetti Talks Abut Transportation And Homelessness In Los Angeles
https://theringer.com/eric-garcetti-los-angeles-olympics-transportation-homelessness-80fc1ebb9f17
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The Ringer

Eric Garcetti Talks Abut Transportation And Homelessness In Los Angeles

By Bill Simmons

On Monday, it was announced that the 2028 Olympic Games will be held in Los Angeles, but not all Angelenos are pleased with the news. The event takes a structural and financial toll on its host cities, and while Los Angeles may be more prepared to shoulder this burden than most other cities across the world,Southern California likely won't escape unscathed. On the most recent episode of The Bill Simmons Podcast, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti talked about some of the city's most pressing issues and the plans to prepare the city for the Olympics.

Listen to the full podcast here. This transcript has been edited and condensed.

Bill Simmons: It's not all hunky-dory [in Los Angeles].

Eric Garcetti: It's not.

Simmons: I think the homelessness is as bad as it's been since I've been here.

Garcetti: №1 in the country, unfortunately.

Simmons: The roads are in really bad shape. Traffic's bad still. … I would just say those are the three biggest things right now and it seems like that crime is going up a bit.

Garcetti: Crime has leveled off. It's still the fifth- or sixth-safest year in 60 years.

Simmons: That's good.

Garcetti: And the increases have been in certain areas, it's actually tied into, I think, tied to homelessness as we've had a lot of people come out of the criminal justice system. Everybody doesn't want people locked away for 20 years for having a gram of something too much. But the savings that were supposed to go to the street to catch them when they got out early isn't there. So I've been frustrated because these folks are coming out. It's cheaper to get high than to get drunk. They're living in tents. Skid row and other places and we're not serving them, we're serving us. But the nice thing on traffic and homelessness, which are my top two priorities, the voters, the same election that changed the presidency, passed the biggest initiatives in both of those in American history. So that money's just starting to come in and people are like, "Why isn't it solved today?" It takes a minute. But over, it'll be, let's see, $4 billion for homelessness over the next 10 years to build housing and give mental health services and the whole anti-addiction stuff. And then on public transportation, we're building 15 new rapid transit lines in L.A.

Simmons: Wow.

Garcetti: And that was approved by voters. So everything from Elon Musk, who we're working with on new tunneling technology to speed it up, to, as we talked about, bringing public transportation to the airport and downtown. It'll be a pretty transformed city. And Uber and Lyft were just the beginning. Connected cars is probably the quickest way to resolve traffic. Because when you think about it, a car about 95 percent of the time isn't moving. So the idea you have to own your car then park it someplace, which is valuable real estate but takes away the city's green space, increases the price of rents and stuff. L.A. is going to be a pretty transformed place and I think we're going to lead the way. So no question we're no. 1 in traffic, no. 1 in homelessness, but I think those are crowns we can lose.

Simmons: The carpool stuff seems like everybody can be better at that.

Garcetti: The carpool stuff, think about it. The old model of carpool was tr to work it out so you and I are going to the same place coincidentally and we can do that every single day. The new one is essentially car share.

Simmons: Yeah, car sharing I guess is a better way to put it.

Garcetti: And the technology too … I don't think autonomous vehicles, fully autonomous in complicated cities, are right around the corner. But interconnected ones are. So you know that frustration on the freeway of, I don't see an accident, but why is everybody stopping and going—if we just all hit the accelerator at the same time, we'd go. When traffic is at its peak, which is only about 10 percent of the day, 95 percent of the streets don't have a car on top of it. So it's just inefficient space. We think we're closer to the cars, we're stopping and going, but once cars are connected to each other and can be a foot away and never hit each other, that's almost like doubling your capacity. So we have the money to do this. I want L.A. to be the first big city in America to test that stuff. And like I said, it takes a minute. Nobody's saying tomorrow it's going to be no traffic, but think about Carmageddon. Everybody said it was going to be the worst ever —

Simmons: That was the best weekend ever to drive in the history of L.A.

Garcetti: It was! Because you take a few people off the roads … You get like 5, 10 percent of people off the roads and it flows.

Simmons: It was great. I was flying!

Garcetti: So part of it is changing behavior, and if need be, it is also, in the future, charging people for the roads they use. So if everybody knew they'd have to pay more to come into the city every single day —

Simmons: That's a good idea

Garcetti:—we would figure out ways to do car share more often so three or four people would come in from the Antelope Valley to downtown to their jobs.

Simmons: The 110 is fun with that because you put the little thing on your dashboard —

Garcetti: Yeah, the transponder

Simmons:—and you can fly through.
Garcetti: Yeah. And we're gonna do more of those lanes which people really like. So there's good things in the future but no question right now, that's the toughest part of living in L.A.

LA Times

Editorial: The Olympics could be a boon for Los Angeles but it's foolish to think we can't lose

Los Angeles scored a major victory this week by securing both the right to host the 2028 Summer Olympic Games and concessions from the International Olympic Committee worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Mayor Eric Garcetti and the city's Olympic committee officials get credit for extracting a better deal from the IOC in exchange for agreeing to wait an additional four years and let Paris host the 2024 Games.

As Garcetti correctly points out, the city (not to mention the region, state and nation) has much to gain in terms of direct and indirect economic benefits, infrastructure improvements and goodwill from hosting the Games. But it would be foolish for city leaders to assume that L.A. just can't lose, as Garcetti and other Olympics boosters have asserted. Of course it can. There are no guarantees when it comes to ticket sales, sponsorship deals or labor and materials costs for an event more than a decade away. And because the IOC refuses to share the risk of cost overruns, host cities are on the hook for any budget-busting developments.

Ideally, Garcetti would have insisted that the IOC protect the city from cost overruns in exchange for accepting the later date. But the city's experience with the 1984 Summer Games suggests that the window for negotiations hasn't fully closed. In the run-up to the '84 Games, public concern about the potential for a taxpayer bailout led voters to approve a ballot measure that threatened to withdraw L.A. as host unless the IOC reduced the city's risk. That's what led the IOC to waive the requirement that L.A. shoulder all unanticipated costs.

If they're done well, the Games can pay economic and civic dividends long after any Olympic-sized traffic jams are cleared.

Regardless, city leaders need to start working now to make sure the $5.3-billion project doesn't turn into a boondoggle over the coming 11 years. Before committing the city's treasury to such a massive undertaking, city leaders must also commit themselves and their successors to vigilant oversight. That responsibility begins as soon as next week, when the L.A. City Council is expected to take up the new host city contract. Council members must make sure that all the promises made by the IOC are in the document before the deal is finalized in Lima, Peru, on Sept. 13.

The city — and the public — must scrutinize the financial assumptions and projections of the nonprofit group acting as the local Olympic organizers. The point is to detect and respond to problems as they emerge, not after they become irreparable.

That said, the mayor and L.A. Olympic committee officials appear to have done as much as possible under the circumstances to insulate the city from financial disaster. The budget has a reserve of $487 million, and the state had agreed to kick in $250 million to help pay for any shortfall in 2024. The new 2028 deal mitigates the risk even further by cutting some costs and finding new revenues.

Los Angeles also starts out with a crucial advantage over other hosts: It doesn't have to spend billions of dollars building anything. The plan is to use fields, arenas and other facilities that already exist or are scheduled to be built soon with private dollars. The one big-ticket item in the city's original proposal — a $1-billion Olympic village to be constructed near downtown — was dropped in favor of a more prudent arrangement to house athletes in UCLA's new dorms.

Some Angelenos might wonder why the city should bother putting on something that promises inconvenience at best and a costly taxpayer burden at worst. The answer is that if they're done well, the Games can pay economic and civic dividends long after any Olympic-sized traffic jams are cleared. This means more federal funding sooner for infrastructure improvements, an influx of private investment, and spruced-up streets, parks and public spaces. This particular deal also means an immediate $160 million investment in youth sports. That may sound like small change, but to the many kids who don't play sports because their parents can't afford sign-up fees as high as $150, it could be life-changing.

There are also the intangible benefits of being part of a global, historic tradition — one of the few extant — that brings the entire world to your city. It can be a thrilling experience for Angelenos and their children, while selling the city to the millions who attend or watch the events from afar.

The 1984 Games turned out to be a financial success, doing more good for its host city than any Summer Games since then. L.A. may not be able to top that in 2028, but with luck and diligence it could host a world-class Olympic Games that leaves the city proud, not racked with buyer's remorse.

Fox and Hound

Congratulations To Los Angeles!

By Gary Toebben

Mayor Eric Garcetti made a once in a generation announcement – the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games are coming back to Los Angeles for the third time.

Two and a half years after losing the United States Olympic Committee's bid selection to another U.S. city, the determination and creativity of the Mayor and local Olympic leadership have solidified an agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to stage the 2028 Games here in L.A.

The Chamber and LA 2024 (now renamed LA 2028) recently commissioned the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University to survey L.A. residents' opinion on holding the 2028 Games. An overwhelming majority, 83 percent, want Los Angeles to host, with 54 percent in "strong" support. The most frequently cited reason was the economic boost to Southern California.

In agreeing to let Paris host the 2024 Games and accepting the 2028 Games, Mayor Garcetti and the LA 2024 Committee, led by Casey Wasserman and Gene Sykes, negotiated a deal that could result in L.A. receiving a contribution of $2 billion from the IOC, as well as the IOC's commitment to waive their cut of any surplus generated by the Olympics. The agreement also includes an interest free loan upfront, which will inject millions of dollars now into youth sports programs.

I have been so proud to serve on the LA 2024 Board of Directors with other local business, civic and sports leaders, and I look forward to our transition in preparation for the 2028 Olympics. Congratulations to Mayor Garcetti, the City Council, Casey Wasserman, Gene Sykes and all of L.A. The 1984 Olympic Games left a legacy in Los Angeles that is still felt over three decades later. I have no doubt that this agreement and the 2028 Olympic Games will do the same.

Sports Illustrated

The IOC Should Have Put History Aside And Given The 2024 Olympic Games To Los Angeles

By Ethan Brady

Monday's deal between Los Angeles and the International Olympic Committee to give the city hosting rights for the 2028 Summer Games was not unexpected. L.A. and Paris both bid for the 2024 Games, but Paris became a favorite for the earlier slot. Los Angeles reportedly sought concessions before it agreed to wait four more years—the deal with the IOC included $1.8 billion, part of which will be paid in advance to increase participation in youth sports in L.A.

Just days before the decision, Mayor of L.A. Eric Garcetti said in an interview with BuzzFeed that L.A. has always been good for "rebooting" the Olympic brand. It sounded like a last-ditch case for L.A.'s hosting sooner rather than later.

And he's right: L.A. would have been the better host for the Summer Games in 2024. Unlike Paris, it's geared in exactly the direction that the IOC wants—and needs—to go: toward young people. The IOC has stated that it wants to attract this demographic. It added karate, sport climbing and three-on-three basketball to the Tokyo Games in 2020, and it started an Olympic Channel to connect with audiences on social media.

Los Angeles represents the excitement of these new additions. It's a young city with an Olympic bid that the evaluation committee called "dynamic and futuristic" in its final report last month. The city will host events in existing facilities like the Coliseum and the Rose Bowl, which played host to the financially successful 1984 Games. The report also praised the bid for integrating cycling races and the marathon throughout the city in order to maximize the number of spectators.

This is a stark difference from Paris, which presented a bid the committee saw as heritage-focused, calling it "historic, cultural and iconic." Paris wants to turn the River Seine, which snakes past icons like the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame, into its own Olympic Park. The Seine, though, is currently too dirty to hold open-water events. Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo pledged in 2015 that the Seine would be swimmable by 2024. But it's unclear if that goal will be met in time, considering a previous mayor's vow in 1988 to clean the river by 1994 was never fulfilled.

Indeed, Paris 2024 will be the centennial of the VIII Olympiad in Paris, providing an extra level of sentimental value. That was the first Games to feature an Olympic Village. But by highlighting the centennial as a key component of Paris's bid, the IOC is placing a strong emphasis on the past at a time when it wants to be reaching out to new audiences of the future. The IOC wasn't concerned about 100-year anniversaries during the 1996 bidding process, when Athens, home of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, lost out to Atlanta. In fact, this will be the first centennial Games in history. The IOC made a big gamble by choosing to celebrate the past rather than expand its viewership, and it may not pay off.

Perhaps the biggest criticism of this process is the way the decision was handled. Instead of waiting until September for the scheduled vote by the 95 members of the IOC representing 67 countries, a handful of officials worked out a deal with L.A. representatives behind the scenes. The deciding factor in L.A.'s concession was a $1.8 billion check. That certainly doesn't reverse the image of the Olympics as a corrupt political body.

All that said, make no mistake: the IOC lucked out in securing both cities hosts over the next decade. "It is truly a tale of two great Olympic cities," said Patrick Baumann, a Swiss basketball executive and the chairman of the evaluation committee. But Paris represents the Olympic past and Los Angeles the future. The Olympics has one priority: spreading its message to new fans. And though the City of Lights will likely stage a historic Summer Games, history wasn't the right thing to focus on. The City of Angels was the one best positioned to begin a new Olympic era—as Mayor Garcetti said at a news conference yesterday, it will "return the Olympic legacy to what it's all about." Sadly, that will have to wait 11 years.

Boston Globe

As LA gets Olympics, there's unfinished business for Boston

The fanfare this week around the selection of Los Angeles as host of the 2028 Summer Olympics provides a taste of what Boston lost when it abandoned its bid for the Games in 2015. Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles announced the agreement Monday, which, if ratified by the Los Angeles City Council and the US Olympic Committee board in August, would make LA a three-time Olympic city after hosting the games in 1932 and 1984. That's cause for congratulations.

In Paris, a likely host for the 2024 Olympics, officials gave LA a hearty "mission accomplie" but said talks on any Paris Games would continue throughout August. The final vote of the International Olympic Committee is scheduled for Sept. 13, in Lima.

As a chance for a city to strut before a world audience, the Olympic Games have no parallel. London 2012 helped reinforce London's transformation from a fusty imperial capital to a multicultural global crossroads. The opportunity to move Boston beyond gangster films and Freedom Trail platitudes, and reintroduce the nation's oldest big city as the educational and research powerhouse it has become, was a key part of the appeal of the failed 2024 Olympics bid.

The proposal for a walkable Olympics would have left an enduring imprint on the city's physical form, and held out the promise of bringing together disparate and sometimes fractious communities and neighborhoods through the transformative power of sports. The unusual decision to consider two Olympic cities at once — including Los Angeles, which took Boston's place as the American entry — also suggests a positive turn for the IOC, a signal that it wants to win back the favor of Western democracies. If Boston's bid had proceeded, it surely would have prevailed.

The challenge now for Boston is to rekindle and redirect the civic energy that the Olympics bid unleashed. Sure, Boston 2024 stirred up discord. But the Olympics bid foundered prematurely, subsumed by early PR mistakes that allowed NIMBYism to take root. Yet the effort also touched off a much-needed civic dialogue about the city's built environment and its transportation infrastructure.

Although much of that discussion has abated, the forward-looking planning and commitments that the Olympics might have spurred can be addressed in the 2017 mayoral campaign. One example: The plan that was on the table at the time the bid was scrapped would have turned Widett Circle into a new neighborhood, by constructing a massive deck over the railroad tracks there. It was a transformative idea then, and remains one now. For Boston, the Games also offered a once-in-a-lifetime chance to galvanize investments in housing and transportation; to modernize the MBTA; to complete an Emerald Necklace that was supposed to reach Dorchester Bay; to resolve, at long last, the traffic horrors of Kosciuszko Circle.

Fortunately, Mayor Walsh's new Imagine Boston 2030 planning blueprint addresses some of the same needs that the Olympics might have. That plan calls for developing Widett Circle, and, like the Olympics plan, for greening Columbia Road. The test will be whether the city can implement those plans without the hard deadline the Olympics would have provided.

Los Angeles, which has hosted the Summer Games twice and will mostly use existing facilities in 2028, was well poised to take advantage when talks in Boston broke down. In its agreement with the country's second-largest city, the IOC also implicitly acknowledged the benefit of sweetening the pot for host communities. For 2028, the IOC has also agreed to give Los Angeles an immediate $180 million advance, which is expected to cover the organizing committee's costs and rejuvenate youth sports programs with new funds.

By passing on the Olympics, Boston likely lost its chance to host the world's biggest sporting event for at least a generation. But maybe someday a different IOC will be able to come to terms with a future Boston, and give the world a better, smarter, more inspiring Games than what we might have had in 2024.

The Recorder

Behind The Bid: How Lawyers Brought The Olympics Back To LA

By Todd Cunningham

Eleven years is a long time to wait for anything, but the legal team behind Los Angeles' bid for the 2028 Summer Games, which was blessed by the International Olympic Committee this week, has given every indication that it can go the distance.

"I thought two years—the time between us getting the domestic bid and waiting for the final word—seemed like all the time in the world," said Jon Oram, a top transactional attorney and partner at Proskauer Rose, who served as counsel to the Los Angeles Olympic Bid Committee.

That was in August 2015, but he'd actually come aboard more than a year before that, at the behest of Casey Wasserman, the chairman and driving force behind LA's Olympic bid. Oram had come to know the founder of the fast-rising Wasserman Media Group while at Proskauer, a powerhouse in sports law, and offered to help.

Today Oram, Brian Nelson, general counsel to the bid committee, and LA City Deputy Counsel Manav Kumar are focusing their efforts on the U.S. Olympic Committee and Los Angeles City Council, which in roughly two weeks will be asked to give its approval to LA serving as host of its third Olympics. With Mayor Eric Garcetti leading the charge on LA's bid that would seem a slam dunk, but ...

"We're lawyers," Oram said. "We need to follow through."

That sort of relentless tenacity earlier made him a rising star in the legal world, pushing through the 2011 sales of Major League Baseball's Houston Astros and the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars, both of which he'd represented for more than four years. He also helped MLB outlast Frank McCourt's effort to retain possession of the Los Angeles Dodgers via bankruptcy that same year.

That determination also came in handy in the summer of 2015, when the U.S. Olympic Committee dropped the bid of Boston, its original choice over LA, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., as the city it would put forward to host the 2024 Summer Games to the International Olympic Committee. A storm of public outcry over the use of taxpayers' money and polls showing most Boston residents did not want the games forced its hand.

"We think Los Angeles gives us our best chance," USOC president Scott Blackmun told reporters when he announced Boston's replacement, citing the city's proven ability to run a profitable Olympics, an existing infrastructure of stadiums

and arenas, and the overwhelming backing—88 percent, according to one poll—of Angelenos.
"We basically had to rip up our plan and start again," Oram said. But this time, he'd have some help. The first hire was Nelson, the former U.S. Justice Department general counsel, a fellow alum of Yale Law School. City attorney Kumar was also from Yale. But they weren't together because they knew the words to "Bulldog," the Eli fight song.
"Our skills are complementary," Oram said. "I'm a transactional lawyer, so my background is in sponsorships, venue agreements, corporate governance. Brian handles government relations at the city, state and federal level, as well as everything from labor issues to intellectual property protection." Kumar worked with the Garcetti administration, and the mayor's counsel, Rich Llewellyn, advising the city from legal perspective, along with City Attorney Mike Feuer, whose office reviewed all of the key documents.
Arenas and stadiums were leased, contractors and vendors were signed up and all was on track for 2024. But around May of this year the IOC, juggling strong pitches from Paris and LA, floated the idea of awarding two cities Summer Games at once. By June, the unprecedented decision was made, and this week it became official: Paris would host in 2024 and LA, which had shown more willingness to wait, was chosen for 2028.
The LA bid sets the cost of staging the games at $5.3 billion, lean by modern Olympic standards thanks in large part to utilizing Staples Center, LA Memorial Coliseum and Rose Bowl as venues, University of Southern California as the media center and housing the athletes at University of California, Los Angeles. It counts on tickets sales and sponsorships to offset the bulk of that, but most of the contracts to utilize those venues and the sponsorship deals had been completed in preparation for 2024 and will have to be reworked.
With the venue deals, ad agreements, housing, security and transportation pacts added in, several hundred—"I don't think we're at a thousand," Nelson said—contracts and other agreements will have to be reviewed and updated. Some hotel and billboard deals are being reworked now, but those pacts won't become a primary focus of the legal team until after the USOC signs off and the IOC finalizes the city's bid at a September session set for Lima, Peru.
"All the positive feedback we've received from the various vendors and partners with whom we have contracts has been really gratifying," said Nelson, who doesn't anticipate serious problems. In fact, he thinks that there are projects and programs outside of the actual games—such as the ongoing expansion of the LA subway system, and improving access to city youth sports—that might benefit the most from the extra time.
Garcetti said Monday that as much as $160 million of the money advanced to the committee to help sustain it for the extra four years could go to youth sports.
"The additional time will enable us to do more for those programs and better leverage our sponsors to help as well, in a fashion that is sustainable and economically and environmentally sound," Nelson said. "We be able to spend more time inviting the community to participate, and let them see that while the games will come and go, the local benefits will continue for years."
Oram sounded confident that whatever the challenge, it would be met by his team, which also included Sigal Mandelker, who was confirmed as under secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence in June; LA2028 deputy general counsel and corporate specialist Tanja Olano; Heidi A. Lawson of Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo; and LA2028 attorneys Anna Schmitz and Jared Schott.
Several of his Proskauer colleagues joined Oram, including partner and tax specialist Amanda Nussbaum, Nancy Sher Cohen (litigation), Anthony DiBenedetto (labor), Bowon Koh (tax), as well as corporate attorneys Sean Alford, Sally Bradley, Erica Esposito, Christine Lazatin and Krista Whitaker.
"This is a young and tremendously talented team with a lot of energy," he said. "We might not have a lot of Olympic experience, so we might do things a little differently, but we've asked advice and gotten it done."
There is no lack of legal expertise to call upon. The board of directors includes Ron Olson, a founding partner of Munger, Tolles & Olson, who oversaw audits for the committee; former California State Treasurer Kathleen Brown, a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips; and Mike Lenard, vice president of the International Court of Arbitration for Sport. Another committee member, David Ulich, a partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton and president of the Foundation for Global Sports Development, was nominated for an Emmy last week for researching and co-producing the documentary "Munich '72 and Beyond."
The all-star legal lineup even has a bench waiting in the wings, and it includes film czar Ken Ziffren, co-founder of Ziffren Brittenham, and Kelly Crabb, a partner Sheppard Mullin who has worked on four different Olympics, was the lead counsel for China's Beijing Games in 2008 and handled the broadcast rights agreements for the 2012 London Games.
Nelson said the legal team and committee all felt they were poised at a moment in sporting history and no one was shrinking.
"We are all aware of the power of the Olympics and want to use it on behalf of the community, this region and this nation," Nelson said. "We want to show the country what a uniting force the Olympics can be in these extremely fraught political times."

Variety

Los Angeles Based Pilot Production Slides 14% To Seven Year Low

By Dave McNary

Television pilots shot in Los Angeles during the 2016-17 development cycle declined by 14% to 68 shows — a seven-year low — according to an annual survey by the film-permitting agency FilmL.A.
FilmL.A. president Paul Audley told Variety that the decline is due to the changing dynamics of the TV industry, with the

streaming services Netflix and Amazon providing more programming that results in a lessening of the overall volume of pilot production.
"Despite this year's smaller crop of pilots, Los Angeles' television industry is robust," Audley said. "With so many projects under way, California is home to more scripted series than its top five competitors combined."
FilmL.A reported on Wednesday that an overall total of 173 broadcast, cable, and digital pilots (109 dramas, 64 comedies) were produced during the 2016-17 development cycle, while the previous three cycles saw 201, 202, and 203 pilots in each season. Of those 173 pilots, a total of 68 projects (22 dramas, 46 comedies) were filmed in the Los Angeles region, down from 79 in 2015-16, 91 in 2014-15, and 90 in 2013-14.
Pilots shot in Los Angeles for the most recent season include "A.P. Bio," "Alone Together," "Amy's Brother," "Atypical," "Brothered Up," "Brown Girls," "Champions," "College-ish," "Disjointed," "Distefano," "Forever Boys," Charlie Foxtrot," "For the People," "American Woman," "Behind Enemy Lines," "Counterpart," "Good Girls," "Hannah Royce's Questionable Choices," "Heathers," "Here Now," "Law & Order True Crime: The Menendez Murders," "Marvel's Runaways," "Mayans MC," "The Orville," "Rebel," "S.W.A.T.," "Sharp Objects," "Ten Days in the Valley," "Too Old to Die Young," "Unit Zero," "Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and the Notorious B.I.G.," "Untitled Kourtney Kang," and "Get Shorty."
FilmL.A. estimated on Wednesday that the 68 L.A.-based pilot projects yielded $303 million in production spending. It also said that the share of overall pilot production by project count remained unchanged for Greater Los Angeles at 39%. Los Angeles saw 79 pilots shot in the region in 2015-16, compared with 24 in New York, 21 in Vancouver/British Columbia, 12 in Atlanta/Georgia, and nine in Toronto/Ontario.
The report also noted that the overall industry saw a total of 65 network, cable, and digital shows ordered straight-to-series in the 2016-17 cycle, including 29 in cable, 27 in digital networks, and nine in broadcast networks.
"When it comes to television, L.A. production has never been stronger," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. "This report demonstrates that L.A. is still the place to shoot, whether you're producing pilots or series. And as a former actress, I am well aware of how many jobs each and every one of those episodes generates."
FilmL.A. also reported 173 series currently in production in California, out of a total of 426. That includes 62 L.A.-based drama series, 30 of which received the California Film & Television Tax Credit, which was expanded two years ago. The agency estimated that California-based incentivized series will spend an estimated $1.72 billion during the present season.
"If you grew up in Detroit, someone on your block worked for a car manufacturer or owned a business where autoworkers spent their paychecks. Here in L.A., the same goes for our entertainment industry — it's the bedrock of our middle class," noted Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.
"Today's report further demonstrates the importance of our California Film and Television Tax Credit, which is keeping production where it belongs — in Los Angeles — and making our city home to more scripted television than its top competitors combined," he said. "We're hearing a lot of good news from the entertainment industry, but we have to keep investing in our middle class — and that means restoring our market share of pilot production."
Garcetti told the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on July 20 that he will push for an increase in California's production tax incentives to at least $500 million annually — up more than 50% from the current $330 million figure. The current program runs out after the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Hollywood Reporter

Los Angeles TV Production Dips In 2016-2017 Season

By Brynn Sandberg
Los Angeles remains the top place for TV production.
According to a newly released report from FilmL.A., the nonprofit film office, 173 broadcast, cable and digital pilots — 109 dramas and 64 comedies — were produced during the 2016-17 development cycle, more than two dozen fewer than the previous year.
Out of those 173 pilots, a total of 68 projects — 22 dramas and 46 comedies — were filmed in the Los Angeles region, yielding an estimated $303 million in production spending. Despite a slight drop in overall pilots produced since last year, the city's share of overall pilot production by project count remains steady at 39 percent.
"Despite this year's smaller crop of pilots, Los Angeles' television industry is robust," FilmL.A. president Paul Audley said Wednesday in a statement. "With so many projects underway, California is home to more scripted series than its top five competitors combined."
After Los Angeles, the top competitors for pilot production in 2015-16 included New York (with 24 projects), Vancouver (21 projects), Atlanta (12 projects) and Toronto (nine projects).
FilmL.A.'s report, which also examines straight-to-series show orders and digital pilot projects in production, reveals that a total of 65 network, cable and digital shows were ordered straight-to-series in the 2016-17 cycle. Cable networks put 29 shows into production, while digital networks launched 27 shows and broadcast networks launched nine shows straight-to-series.
"When it comes to television, L.A. production has never been stronger," added Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. "This report demonstrates that L.A. is still the place to shoot, whether you're producing pilots or series. And as a former actress, I am well aware of how many jobs each and every one of those episodes generates."
By FilmL.A.'s count, there are 173 series currently in production in California out of 426 sampled series currently in production across network, cable and digital distribution channels. That number includes 62 Los Angeles-based drama

series, 30 of which receive tax incentives from the state. Altogether, California-based incentivized series will spend an estimated $1.72 billion during the present season.
"If you grew up in Detroit, someone on your block worked for a car manufacturer or owned a business where autoworkers spent their paychecks. Here in L.A., the same goes for our entertainment industry — it's the bedrock of our middle class," noted Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. "Today's report further demonstrates the importance of our California Film and Television Tax Credit, which is keeping production where it belongs — in Los Angeles — and making our city home to more scripted television than its top competitors combined. We're hearing a lot of good news from the entertainment industry, but we have to keep investing in our middle class — and that means restoring our market share of pilot production."

The Desert Sun

Company's plan to sell Mojave Desert groundwater opposed by LA water officials

By Ian James
The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is opposing a company's proposal to pump groundwater in the Mojave Desert and sell it to Southern California cities.
The L.A. water utility's board weighed in against the project on Tuesday, recommending to Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City Council that they support a bill in the state Legislature requiring California to review the environmental impacts of the proposal.
"We feel that the risks to the desert don't justify whatever profits or potential jobs might be gained from taking water out of this important desert aquifer," LADWP Board President Mel Levine said after the meeting. He said he brought the matter before the board to point out the project's "very serious risks to every component of the environment in the Mojave Desert."
Cadiz Inc. aims to pump as much as 16.3 billion gallons of groundwater per year on land surrounded by Mojave Trails National Monument about 75 miles northeast of Palm Springs.
Conservation groups say if the company is allowed to draw down the aquifer, it would threaten natural springs and wildlife in the heart of the Mojave Desert.
Cadiz disagrees, saying the project wouldn't harm the environment in any way.
State Assemblymember Laura Friedman, D-Glendale, last month introduced a bill that would establish additional requirements for the project to proceed.
The legislation, AB 1000, targets Cadiz by requiring state regulators to review projects that would transfer groundwater away from desert lands in the vicinity of national monuments, national preserves and other protected spaces. The State Lands Commission, working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, would be tasked with ensuring that the transfer "will not adversely affect the natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat," of protected lands nearby.
The bill was passed by the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in a 7-2 vote on July 11. It's slated to go next before the Senate Appropriations Committee, and then on to the full Senate.
Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who has long fought the Cadiz project in Washington, sent a letter to Levine ahead of Tuesday's meeting urging LADWP to support the bill in Sacramento. She said Cadiz's proposal would "irrevocably harm the Mojave Desert."
"The Cadiz water extraction project proposal illustrates why state protections of desert groundwater basins are so critical at this time," Feinstein said in the letter. "Supporting projects like Cadiz is not supporting smart water infrastructure or sound science. It's putting private profit over public lands that belong to all Californians."
Levine and the other commissioners decided to send a letter to Garcetti and the City Council urging them to support AB 1000. They also agreed to recommend that L.A.'s representatives on the board of the larger Metropolitan Water District of Southern California continue to oppose the Cadiz project.
At their next meeting in two weeks, Levine sid the LADWP board will vote on a resolution formalizing their opposition to the project.
Courtney Degener, Cadiz's vice president of communications, said the commissioners' recommendation was made without "fair notice" and without an official briefing by the project's proponents.
"We only learned late yesterday that the Commission would discuss the project and AB 1000 and that was via a tweet from an opposition group, not LADWP," Degener said in an emailed statement. "The verbal staff report provided did not accurately inform the Commission of the scientific, engineering, environmental, financial or legal aspects of the project."
"It is disappointing that a public agency would conduct so unfair and biased a process for a project that will safely provide water for 400,000 people," Degener said.
She said that the company hopes to "have an opportunity to properly brief" the LADWP board before its next meeting.
"If properly informed we don't believe the City of Los Angeles will support AB 1000 or share the Commission's position."
Degener said Friedman's bill "establishes a terrible precedent for all projects and as a result has already garnered the opposition of more than 50 California organizations."
A list of the bill's opponents includes 18 water agencies and organizations, from the East Orange County Water District to the Mojave Water Agency, as well as the Southern California Association of Governments, cities, business

associations and labor groups.
Cadiz owns 34,000 acres in the desert along Route 66 in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys, close to the Mojave National Preserve, and is proposing to build a 43-mile pipeline alongside a railroad line to send the water to Southern California cities.Railroad tracks run near Cadiz Inc. The company proposes to build a water pipeline alongside the railroad. (Photo: Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun)
While pursuing its plan to sell water, the Los Angeles-based company has been running its wells to irrigate nearly 2,000 acres of farmland, growing lemons, grapes, raisins and other crops.
Cadiz's proposal was temporarily stymied during the Obama administration when Interior Department officials said the proposed pipeline wasn't within the rights originally granted to the railroad in 1875 and would require an additional permit.
But that hurdle was apparently removed earlier this year when President Donald Trump's administration announced a related policy change, scrapping guidelines that detail how federal officials are supposed to evaluate uses of public lands alongside railroads.
RELATED: Will a federal policy change help this company sell Mojave Desert water?
Opponents of the project have also voiced concerns about the appointment of David Bernhardt as deputy Interior secretary. Bernhardt, who was confirmed by the Senate last month, is a partner and shareholder – along with Cadiz CEO Scott Slater – in the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, which in turn owns shares in Cadiz.
Levine, an attorney and former Democratic member of Congress from 1983-93, said safeguarding the environment in the California desert has long been important to him. He sponsored desert protection legislation while in the House prior to the 1994 approval of Feinstein's California Desert Protection Act, which turned Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments into national parks and created the Mojave National Preserve.
Levine said he had heard about Cadiz's proposal intermittently for many years but didn't think it was likely to go anywhere until the Trump administration began signaling support.
"Basically it's our collective view and my personal view that we have an administration in Washington that is hell-bent on compromising the environment," Levine said. "Fortunately, we have state and local leaders such as Mayor Garcetti and Gov. Brown who are committed to state and local action to protect our environment, and we wanted to go on record supporting that type of environmental protection in the context of a project such as Cadiz that we feel is likely to do, as Sen. Feinstein said, irreparable harm to the desert."
Levine said he and other commissioners received comments ahead of their discussion from people on both sides of the debate.
David Lamfrom, the National Parks Conservation Association's desert director, praised the LADWP board for taking the position that the Cadiz project isn't consistent with L.A.'s sustainability efforts, saying they "took powerful action today to defend precious California desert water resources" for communities, wildlife and protected areas.
"I think they're sending a really clear signal – to water districts, to Sacramento, to the governor, to the mayor," Lamfrom said. "If you're a company who's trying to sell water, to have one of the nation's largest water districts telling you that they have no confidence in you or your product or your intentions is a really serious thing."

Curbed

Biking in Los Angeles: A Q & A with the former head of LACBC

By Bianca Barragan
Projects tied to the city of Los Angeles's Vision Zero program are sparking clashes from Playa del Rey to Northeast Los Angeles. Vision Zero aims to end traffic deaths in the LA—the nation's deadliest city for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, passengers, and motorcyclists.
It's the program's methods, not its goals, that are dividing Angelenos. Under the plan, lanes dedicated to cars have been removed to slow down traffic (speed is a proven factor in roadway deaths) and to make room for bike lanes, pitting drivers against pedestrians and bike safety advocates.
Tamika Butler, who just departed her post as the executive director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, has had firsthand experience trying to bring the needs and interests of Angelenos who ride bikes to the forefront.
Curbed spoke to Butler about biking, issues faced by people who bike, her new role as executive director of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, and how to continue to make LA a fun, safe, healthy place for all residents—regardless of how they get around. The conversation was edited for length and clarity.
You're a big promoter of equity in biking and transportation. What does that look like? Are there examples we could see in play today?
For me, when we talk about equity, if you have to simplify it—which I hate doing, because it is complicated—but if you have to simplify it, it's making sure those who have had the least, get the most.
I think that's really uncomfortable for people, because it sometimes means that those who have had the most aren't going to get as much. And in their mind, they think it means they're giving something up.
I don't identify as a cyclist. I identify as a person who loves to ride my bike. The more we think about that—that these are people on bikes—hopefully drivers will see those people.
When I first joined the Bike Coalition, I remember going to my first bike summit and going to a panel with people from the bike industry who were talking about marketing to women—how they market differently to women, why it's important to market to women, why we need more women riding bikes, and for women to seeing themselves in marketing materials.

And I remember sitting in the crowd and hearing the hispers from some of the men in the room, and also a little bit on social media, how it was sexist that this panel even existed. For me, not coming from the bike world, that experience was kind of this rude awakening.

I realized that this is a world filled with a lot of straight white men who have been relatively privileged in different ways in their life, and for them, being a cyclist and identifying as a cyclist is something that is really important. It's something that is part of their core identity, and for many of them, in their opinion, it is the way they've been oppressed.

And so to even start to have a conversation with them about why even identifying as a cyclist isn't the most inclusive, to get from there to to equity has always been a stretch.

Why don't you like the term "cyclist"?

I'm not a cyclist. I don't identify as a cyclist. I identify as a person who loves to ride my bike. The more we think about that—that these are people on bikes—hopefully the more drivers will see those people as grandmas and mothers and kids trying to to school. Is it going to solve all the problems? No. But sometimes folks put those labels on us, and it helps make us less than a person, just a cyclist.

You came to LACBC toward the end of 2014, and July 14 was your last official day on the job. In that time, how have you seen biking change and improve in LA?

If you look at the pictures from that most recent meeting about the street improvements in Mar Vista, it was a packed house, and it wasn't just people who bike. It was our friends, it was family members, it was grandmas, it was folks in the Vision Zero Alliance with us. The visibility of people who bike and the sheer numbers have increased.

I think one of the hardest parts about me leaving is that, when you leave something, you like to sit back and think about all the ways in which it's gotten better and you helped it get better.

And maybe with some time, some reflection, and a little bit of vacation I'll be able to do that. But right now, I think when we have the last two weeks like we've had with Mar Vista, when folks are talking about the fact that a few extra minutes on a commute might be more important than lives, you really wonder if things have changed.

What do you think happened there?

When you dig deeper into these incidents of "bikelash," what keeps coming up for folks is, that they say, "We want everybody to be safe, but where's the community engagement? When did folks talk to us?"

That's another thing that really ties to that equity point. Our government agencies or our nonprofits need to ask: Are we getting better at community engagement? I think we'd be hard-pressed to say we're notgetting better, but have we figured it out? Have we cracked the code? I don't know that we have.

A lot of the work you've done has been expanding the discussion beyond bikes at the Bicycle Coalition.

Especially for bike advocates, there has been this need to singularly focus on bicycling. I totally get it. I talk to folks who have been doing this way longer than me, who have more battle scars, and what I've heard is no one cared about biking.

So many of the folks who started this work, or started biking even, did it as something that wasn't mainstream, and there was a lot of pride in that identity. But I think many movements struggle with transitioning from being the outsider to saying, "Hey, we're like everybody else!" And do you even want to do that?

I think bicycle advocacy has struggled with that. What's our message? Who are we? What makes us unique? What makes us the same? What are we working for?

Again, this is something that happens when a movement matures. As someone who's black, I think there are some folks who are a little older, who were part of the Civil Rights movement, who don't understand Black Lives Matter. There are different tactics and different ways of doing things.

What's been the response to expanding the discussion?

That's what I've gotten the most pushback about, the most harassment about, the most bullying about.

The issue is that the folks who have been the most vile and aggressive in their pushback think we're talking about these other issues instead of biking. But we're not.

One of my pet peeves is when people say that the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition's mission was to make LA County a safe, healthy, and fun place to bike.

The mission didn't change. We've just had to realize that if you want LA County to be that safe, healthy, fun place, the people who are riding bikes have to be able to afford to live here. They have to have affordable housing.

If they're homeless and they're worried about where they're going to sleep at night, then they're not going to be in a place where biking is fun, healthy, and safe.

If they're riding for fun, not transportation, and they want a bike path or a nice park to ride, but there are no parks or bike paths anywhere near their neighborhood, then they're not in a place where biking is fun, healthy, and safe.

You have to understand intersection. As a queer black woman, I live at the intersections, and so I'm not able to see a world in which there aren't multiple factors at play in everything that happens. Folks who say, "Why are you talking about more than bikes? This is the only issue," are doing so because they're coming from a perspective where they've been really lucky and privileged that they only have to think about one issue.

How does outreach have to change or improve to get everybody behind Vision Zero, and do you think it's possible to get everyone behind it?

Something I learned long ago is that you're never going to get everybody to 100 percent agree on everything. What you can do is, you can hear them. You can make sure they feel validated, and you can explain why you're doing the things you do. At the end of that, there are still going to be people who disagree with you, and there's only so much you can do.

For transportation to continue to be successful in LA ... we have to figure out how to talk about these issues in a way

that people understand—and not just in terms of commuting.
Engagement takes time. Our structures set up this paradigm where we have to meet deadlines and get projects done, where community engagement might be a meeting that we can check off on a list.
We don't really ask ourselves, did that meeting happen after work? Was that meeting in a convenient location for everyone? If a majority of the people in this neighborhood are non-English speakers, did we provide translation services? Did we make sure all of the materials were in those languages? These are the things that take more time.
I happen to think that the bar that many people use for community engagement presently is too low, and that we have to up our game and really be more creative about how we're meeting people where they are.
I think there's this tendency in this work to say, "We need to work with a nonprofit who's going to talk to people in the community and train the people in the community to talk like we talk and understand the issues like we understand them."
But instead, we should be saying, "You know what? The knowledge and expertise is in the community, so I'm going to go there. And I'm not going to go in there as a savior—saying here's the plan, here's what we're going to do. I'm going to listen. I'm going to put in some time. I'm going to go to several meetings before bike lanes even come up." I think folks who are doing this work need to set the bar for engagement much higher.
What are some of the biggest hurdles to creating a safer, better transportation environment for Angelenos?
We can't ignore that in LA we are a car-centric culture. We can't ignore in LA that the Hollywood industry has historically really pushed back against bike lanes. We have unique challenges in LA that there aren't in other places. To be successful, we're going to have to do more engagement. We're going to have to understand intersectionality way better.
For transportation to continue to be successful in LA—to ride the momentum of Measure M and make sure Measure M goes well—we have to figure out how to talk about these issues in a way that people understand—and not just in terms of commuting.
When Mayor Eric Garcetti was campaigning for Measure M, one of the things I heard him say all the time was: "Transportation is the prism through which we should see all other social issues."
If you can't get to school, you're not going to get your education. If you can't get to work, you're not going to get your paycheck. As soon as we can get better at consistently talking about that and talking about transportation and mobility in a way that brings people together and not excludes people or keeps people out, I think the better off we'll be in Los Angeles.
You're moving on to work at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, which focuses on bringing parks and green space to communities of color in LA. Is that a natural progression of your work with the LACBC, or is it a totally new direction?
At the end of the day, what I've always cared about is social justice, people and communities, and bringing people and communities together.
I could say about the LA Neighborhood Land Trust that it's about making sure that LA is a fun, healthy, safe place to be, just like the LACBC was.
Some people don't want a bike lane, because they think it's the first sign of gentrification; they think that property values might go up, and they might get pushed out. The same thing happens with a park. This job is totally a natural progression of what I've been doing, and it's something I'm excited about.
To touch on what you said about how some people fear improvements—a park, bike lanes, a renewed LA River—because, for them, those improvements mean the countdown clock has started until they have to move. This suspicion of what many would consider "nice things" looks strange to people who have never had that conflict.
As the paid advocates, we have to do better at understanding that there are real concerns, especially in LA, where everything you read talks about how much money you have to have just to live here.
Whenever changes come, whether or not it's in our relationships or in our communities, there's always this thought: "Is that change for me? Is that change for someone else? Am I going to benefit from this? Did I get to contribute to it? Am I part of this? Did I help build this?"
Sometimes, folks who have done this work, they assume that because they're experts, people will trust them, and people will trust them to do the right thing. But for so many of us in this country, no one's ever really cared about us, and trusting people in power hasn't really gotten us too far. So if we don't think about those historical and social contexts as we go in to do our work, then our work isn't going to be successful.

National Review

The Coming Swarm Of Presidential Candidates

By Jim Geraghty

The 2020 primary field is shaping up as an also-ran-a-rama. It's easy to laugh at Congressman John Delaney of Maryland, the little-known House Democrat who announced, to the opposite of fanfare, that he intends to run for his party's presidential nomination in 2020. FiveThirtyEight, a site for political junkies, joked that they couldn't remember his name and concluded, "This whole thing is a little nuts." Politico greeted him with the headline, "What is John Delaney thinking?" The Republican research firm America Rising offered a one-word statement in response: "Who?"
But Democrats should feel unnerved by the fact that no one around Delaney can persuade him that this is a bad idea. The party is full of better-known, semi-known, and even comparatively little-known figures who might think they can do themselves or their career some good by announcing a presidential campaign. And it's not hard to imagine the bunch

of them taking the plunge, creating another unruly stampede of candidates drowning one another out, and leaving the most outlandish candidate standing at the end. Democrats should prepare for the double-decker debate stage that Republicans endured in 2016. Start with the well-known, instantly serious candidates. Former vice president Joe Biden (1) told the Washington Post this spring, "Do I regret not being president? Yes." Vermont senator Bernie Sanders (2) may or may not want to run again, but he would begin with 13 million Democrats who voted for him last time, and he has to at least pretend to be interested in order to avoid the political equivalent of being put out to pasture. Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren (3) has been the Democrats' presidential candidate of the future since 2011. It's not true that every Democratic senator and governor is being mentioned as a potential candidate; it just feels that way. California senator Kamala Harris (4), formerly her state's attorney general, is getting a lot of attention; Democratic donors tell The Hill she's "absolutely going to run." New Jersey senator Cory Booker (5) spent much of his early career setting up Silicon Valley–focused centrist cred, but he's veered to the left since Trump took office. Minnesota senator Amy Klobuchar (6) visited Iowa. States want the DHS to help protect election systems 00:15 00:45 Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe (7) says he might run for president. Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley (8), whose campaign went nowhere in 2016, is polling Iowa caucusgoers for 2020. Montana governor Steve Bullock (9) is giving his party advice and is one of the few names on this list who can boast of winning a "red state." Quite a few Democrats think New York governor Andrew Cuomo's ambitions will drive him to run (10). California governor Jerry Brown (11) will be 82 and doesn't sound likely, but he says he's not ruling out a presidential run. Politico reports that former president Barack Obama wants former Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick (12) to run. Over in the House, Chris Matthews asserts that Representative Adam Schiff (13) of California, the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, will run for president. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts (14) is getting a lot of buzz, considering his low name ID. Back in December, the New Yorker declared that Representative Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii should run for president (15). Oh, and then there's Delaney (16). Buzz about a presidential bid surrounds two mayors, Eric Garcetti (17) of Los Angeles and Mitch Landrieu (18) of New Orleans. We're up to 18 candidates, and that's not counting the celebrities and media figures who might think Trump demonstrated that political experience is not only no longer required, but a liability: Mark Zuckerberg, Oprah, Mark Cuban, and so on. Quite a few Democrats see Trump's victory in 2016 as a fluke, a historical accident, a twist of fate that can be explained only by Russian mischief. If President Trump's job approval remains low, a lot of Democrats will conclude that the 2020 race will be the easiest path to the presidency in their lifetime. If President Trump's job approval remains low, a lot of Democrats will conclude that the 2020 race will be the easiest path to the presidency in their lifetime. For the lesser-known GOP candidates of the 2016 cycle, the dual-tier debate format turned into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Candidates polling poorly, usually with the lowest name recognition, were consigned to the 6:00 p.m. "undercard debate," the political equivalent of preseason football, with fewer viewers and fewer opportunities to break out. Even in the prime-time debates, there were only so many ways for candidates to say that Obamacare was a mess, taxes needed to be lower, they opposed abortion, and they would never "lead from behind" on the world stage. Long stretches of the debates turned into repetitive rhetorical sludge. A discerning primary voter could fairly ask some of the lesser-known, longest-of-long-shot, uninspiring, cookie-cutter candidates . . . "Why are you here?" (Anderson Cooper came close to this in one of the early Democratic presidential debates when he pointed out to Lincoln Chafee, "You've only been a Democrat for little more than two years.") Their agendas, campaign speeches, and commercials were similarly indistinct; the senators and retired governors all started blurring together into HuckaSantoruGilmorePatakiGraham. One chunk of the field convinced itself there was an "establishment lane," leaving Jeb Bush, John Kasich, Marco Rubio, and Chris Christie all elbowing each other for the same base of support that proved insufficiently influential. On the other side, Ted Cruz, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, and Scott Walker tried to occupy the "conservative lane." Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina competed with Trump for an "outsider lane." But in the end, it turned out there were no real lanes, just a traffic jam. Every non-Trump candidate's determination to be the last one standing against Trump was the strategic miscalculation of the cycle. America has many politicians who are unremarkable beyond their inexplicable adamancy that they deserve to be the next president of the United States. For several cycles, these wannabes have treated our presidential primaries as book tours with bigger crowds and more balloons, eating up air time and media oxygen, certain that even if they failed miserably, a television gig, higher speaking fees and maybe another, bigger book deal awaited them after the marathon. The primary electorate's serious duty of sorting through genuinely qualified candidates is made harder by these globs of candidate cholesterol clogging up the arteries of democracy. Don't laugh, Democrats. Your own version of Jim Gilmore is coming. At some point in 2019, the media and primary voters will gather in a large room for a televised debate and listen to some unknown lawmaker who everyone knows will not finish in the top ten of either Iowa or New Hampshire stammer through a two-part question on Social Security. That unknown lawmaker might very well be John Delaney . . . not that you'll be able to remember his name anyway.

La Sentinel

New Workforce Development Program Means Win For LA

By Brian Carter

"It's a win-win because this phase is going to help the community go into the 21st century and beyond," said John 'Big John' Harriel, IBEW electrician and project superintendent for Morrow Meadows.

On Friday, July 28, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) launched Workforce Initiative Now-LA (WIN-LA), a groundbreaking workforce development program focused on creating career pathways in the transportation industry. Metro and elected officials along with employers, community-based organizations and

workforce centers converged at the Sheraton Grand Los Angeles Hotel to galvanize this new initiative together.
In attendance was Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington and Miguel Cabral executive officer, diversity & economic opportunity, Mayor & Metro Board Chair Eric Garcetti, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Mayors James T. Butts (Inglewood), Robert Garcia (Long Beach), Vartan Gharpetian (Glendale), councilmen Robert S. Joe (Pasadena) and Jeff Wood (Lakewood), Kate Mergen, director, governmental & regulatory affairs, associated general contractors of California, Shenae Rourk, chair, transportation business advisory council and chair, national association of women business owners and Robert B. Miller, vice chancellor, finance and resource development, Los Angeles Community College District.
The event introduced WIN-LA to prime contractors, small businesses and other potential partners to encourage their participation in the new programs designed to benefit the entire region.
"The expansion of our transportation system is going to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, and we have a responsibility to make sure the people in our own communities have the skills to fill them," said Garcetti. "Workforce Initiative Now-Los Angeles will offer training resources to people across L.A. County, and prepare them for tomorrow's good-paying Metro jobs."
"We are about to launch a very, very deep and wide workforce development initiative focused on transportation as the centerpiece but it will move beyond that," said Ridley-Thomas. "Nothing but good news that can come out of this so our job is to put this WIN program out in our communities and tell people get ready, get ready, get ready!"
Career pathways include construction, non-construction opportunities in operations/maintenance, administration and professional services. Unique to the program, WIN-LA will provide support for participants in areas such as life skills development, skill set enhancement and educational attainment services through a collaboration of program partners. It also will increase the resources needed for training and placement of hard-to-fill positions within Metro and the transportation industry.
"It's an opportunity for people to really learn about transportation and know that there are so many jobs here that make this whole thing work," said Diane Frazier service operations superintendent for bus operations at METRO.
"This is a call to the community that your prayers have been answered," said Metro Board Member Jackie Dupont-Walker. "If you are looking for a career in transportation, that has over 40 different professions, you should check it out."
Approximately 39 percent of Metro's workforce will be eligible for retirement over the next three years with 69 percent of Metro employees currently over the age of 40. Succession planning is crucial to maintaining a viable agency and Metro needs a workforce to deliver its aggressive Measure M program over the next 40 years and beyond.
WIN-LA is designed to be a collaborative partnership between Metro and those institutions and organizations interested in helping job seekers, companies and local communities through demand-driven workforce services. The goal is to create career pathway opportunities in the transportation and construction industries.
"What WIN LA means for the community is really reaching out, especially to those communities that are impoverished and on the lower socioeconomic strata and identify people in the those communities, assess them, train them and put them to work on our projects," said Washington.
Measure M, a half-cent sales tax initiative approved by the voters in 2016, will provide $860 million annually to build 40 highway and transit projects throughout L.A. County over the next 40 years. It is expected to generate an additional 778,000 jobs.
"WIN-LA can be for those who feel they have no hope—the light at the end of the tunnel," said Dupont-Walker.
"If you are hanging out at Starbucks, or hanging on the corner—we want you. If you just got back from prison and you don't think anybody else wants you—we want you. If you have come back from serving in the military, can't find a place to land—we want you.
"[Metro] has something for everybody—just show up."

Daily News

Harvard-Westlake parking structure controversy coming to crossroads in Studio City

By Antonie Boesenkool

The controversy over a proposed parking structure for a prestigious private school has been building for four years. Judging by the signs on lawns in Coldwater Canyon and even bedsheets hung from homes, it hasn't cooled one bit. Now, the issue could be coming to a head, with the first public meeting since the city issued both draft and final environmental impact reports for Harvard-Westlake School's plan to build the three-story garage topped with a lighted athletic field across Coldwater Canyon Avenue from its Studio City campus.
Residents have been fighting the project ever since it was proposed four years ago. They formed the group Save Coldwater Canyon!, circulated petitions and hired experts to make their own assessments.
Resident Sarah Boyd, president of the group, said the project will mean 30 months of construction and associated traffic snarls along a major thoroughfare.
"That's a lot to ask of a community for a project that's benefiting only the school; there's no public benefit," Boyd said last week as she and Suellen Wagner, another member of Save Coldwater Canyon!, drove with a reporter to a hillside neighborhood overlooking the proposed site. Across the street, homeowners at one house had hung a bedsheet from their balcony reading "Save Coldwater Canyon" in hand-painted red letters.
"That traffic has to go somewhere," added Wagner. "It will be horrendous during construction, and I think it will be definitely worse than it is now, after, because you're bringing in more cars."

Compared with the last four years of debate, the next steps could happen quickly. On Tuesday, a hearing officer for the Los Angeles Department of City Planning will host the public meeting at Van Nuys City Hall. Anyone can weigh in and speak about the project. Planning Department staff will compile those comments for the city Planning Commission and, importantly, the hearing officer will make a recommendation about the project for the commission. The Planning Commission could make decisions as soon as Sept. 28 on Harvard-Westlake's project, according to Cheryl Getuiza, spokeswoman for the Planning Department. Appeals to any decisions by the commission will extend the process.
Rick Commons, president of Harvard-Westlake, didn't return calls seeking comment Wednesday. But the school has laid out its position in detail on its website.
Harvard-Westlake School, which counts Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and new Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Nick Melvoin among its alumni, first proposed building the parking structure in 2013. On its website outlining the project and responding to criticism, the school says the 750-space structure would answer the need for more parking and a practice sports field, and it would improve student safety.
The new structure, which the school proposes to link to the campus with a pedestrian bridge over Coldwater Canyon Avenue, would mean students and staff wouldn't park on neighborhood streets, traffic flow would be improved and there would be no more bus parking on Coldwater Canyon, the school said on its website.
Harvard-Westlake's existing parking "doesn't come close to meeting its demands," the school said on its website. The school said it will build a new southbound through-lane and a northbound turn lane on Coldwater Canyon, plus two dedicated southbound turn lanes from Coldwater Canyon Avenue into the parking structure, plans that opponents have been criticized as impractical.
"A thorough, peer-reviewed traffic analysis approved by [Los Angeles Department of Transportation] concludes that there will be no backup on Coldwater Canyon. The analysis, and peer review also concludes that construction of the project will not significantly affect traffic," the school said on its website.
Opponents' concerns and complaints have been many, from the cutting down of protected oak and walnut trees (the school would be required to plant hundreds more trees) to the nighttime light that would come from the athletic field. (Fourteen light poles are planned, which would, at their top height, be 84 feet above the street. The school said the lights would be on only until 8 p.m. weekdays.)
But one major concern is that the project would mean removing 137,000 cubic yards of dirt with about nine months' worth of truck trips. For those who live in the twisty-road hillside neighborhoods that line Coldwater Canyon, that's a problem, Boyd and Wagner said.
"These people, by and large, obviously they're upset project for environmental reasons," Boyd said. "But they're also very worried about emergency vehicles getting into their neighborhood, about how they're going to get in and out, and why they should be burdened by this."
Save Coldwater Canyon! isn't the only group opposing the project. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, with open space land abutting the project site, and the Studio City Residents Association, Sierra Club of L.A. and a few others also are against the school's plan.
Tuesday's meeting is set for 9 a.m. at Van Nuys City Hall, 14410 Sylvan St., Van Nuys. Those who can't attend the meeting still have a chance to be heard by sending written comments to milena.zasadzien@lacity.org at the Planning Department by the end of Tuesday.

LA Times

Even in a booming economy, LA City Hall faces daunting budget challenges

By Dave Zahniser
Standing outside City Hall, Mayor Eric Garcetti launched his second term by offering an audience a celebratory message: Los Angeles has clawed its way back from crisis.
Garcetti described the city's emergence from a recession that, in his words, sapped the public's morale and "gutted" basic services. "We … got back to work one street tree, one sidewalk, one pothole at a time," he told the audience last month.
Los Angeles is indeed spending more on its streets, sidewalks and other infrastructure. Yet even in a booming economy, Garcetti faces a daunting set of budget challenges — including a projected gap of more than $200 million in two years, budget estimates show.
The city continues to face a "structural deficit," with projections showing expenses exceeding the money that comes in. Retirement costs are poised to jump significantly, consuming funds that would otherwise pay for public services. And if another downturn hits, Garcetti will have less room to maneuver than in the last recession — thanks to decisions he and the City Council have made.
In recent years, the mayor and city lawmaker have signed off on legal settlements that dictate how much the city must spend on sidewalk repairs and on affordable housing for disabled renters.
Garcetti and the council also endorsed a legal agreement that, if approved by a judge, would limit the amount of money sent to the city budget by the Department of Water and Power. And they have reduced business taxes in a way that would be difficult to reverse during a crisis.
Those budget constraints represent more than $100 million per year in lost revenue and additional financial commitments, a Times analysis found. And they will tie the hands of city leaders for years to come, said City Controller Ron Galperin.
"In the next downturn, that means there is going to be very, very little wiggle room" to balance the budget, he said.

Garcetti, in an interview, argued that the city's finances are "quite strong." Since the recession, he said, city leaders have built up more than $400 million in reserves, double the amount available a decade ago.
"There's no question we're in a better position than we were in 2008," he said. "We're more efficient. We have more in reserves. We've been much better at increasing the staff in a prudent way."
Garcetti defended the sidewalk spending agreement, saying he would have pushed for the repairs anyway, and described the DWP settlement as "one we can live with." But he also argued that city leaders are working to bring in new sources of funding, including taxes on marijuana, billboards and short-term rental sites like Airbnb.
"There are revenues that make this not a one-sided story," he added.
Still, that money might not be enough. An analysis released by the city in April indicated that the general fund budget, which pays for police patrols, firefighter response and other basic services, could see a nearly 20% jump in pension and retiree healthcare costs by 2019.
A report issued in April projected a $215 million increase in retirement costs over two years, if two pension boards lower their earnings projections. That figure could grow, depending on coming budget decisions.
That would push the city's retirement costs up to $1.3 billion. Councilman Paul Koretz, who heads a committee on personnel issues, voiced fears about the city's ability to absorb such an increase in hard times.
"If we had a big economic downturn," he said, "we'd have to fill [the gap] by reducing services and probably laying people off."
The last time Los Angeles faced a recession, the city's elected officials were caught off guard.
When the downturn hit in 2008, they had just approved five years of employee raises totaling nearly 25% for most civilian city workers. They also had hired hundreds of new police officers.
What followed were service rollbacks in libraries, parks, the Fire Department and other agencies — and the departure of thousands of city employees. The crisis was exacerbated by major investment losses for the city's pension funds, which made the budget picture worse.
The city's pension agencies have seen stronger returns since the recession. But elected officials are about to confront a new round of challenges.
The looming pension threat
In June, the agency that oversees pensions for retired police officers and firefighters cut its "assumed rate of return" — its yearly earnings projection — from 7.5% to 7.25%. The Fire and Police Pensions board concluded that their investments would not produce returns as strong as previously forecast.
When the pension board reduces its investment projections, taxpayers — and the city budget — frequently make up the difference. But the board also updated its long-range forecast to reflect the reality that its retirees are living longer and will need pensions for a greater number of years.
Those actions are expected to increse the city's employee retirement costs by $84 million next year, according to recent estimates.
The pension board for police officers and firefighters recently cut their yearly earnings assumptions, shifting the cost to the city budget. Investment returns have fluctuated dramatically over the past decade.
A second pension board, which serves civilian city workers, is set to consider a similar set of costly changes. If it follows the lead of Fire and Police Pensions, the city could see at least $38 million in added costs, officials say.
The increased retirement costs are set to hit the city budget next year, when Garcetti and the council are slated to finalize new contracts with two big employee groups: the Police Protective League, which represents rank-and-file police officers, and the Coalition of L.A. City Unions, which represents civilian workers.
Art Sweatman, a tree surgeon supervisor with the Bureau of Street Services, said many city workers are struggling to keep up with rising rents and home prices.
"We need to keep up with the cost of living," he added.
For every 1% pay increase given to police officers and coalition workers, the city will need to spend an additional $22 million, according to city estimates. And because pension benefits are based on salaries, those raises will ultimately add to the overall retirement burden.
City budget analysts say their pension cost projections could change significantly depending on hiring decisions, the size of raises and the economic performance of the two funds. But if their figures prove to be accurate and retirement costs grow by nearly 20%, the city would have to cut spending, bring in more money or tap reserve funds.
Scarred by the experiences of the last recession, city leaders steadily built up the reserve over the past decade. But they have also chipped away at it in recent years, using it to balance the budget and pay for programs to address homelessness.
Los Angeles' reserve fund, which includes money for emergencies, is a much bigger share of the general fund budget than it was during the recession. The figure for 2017 is an estimate.
Faced with a crisis, city leaders could do what they did last time — scale back public services. But some of those reductions won't be as easy next time.
Take sidewalks. When the global recession hit in 2008, city leaders halted funding for repairs, adding to an already sizable backlog of buckled pavement.
Soon after that decision, advocates for the disabled filed a lawsuit arguing that L.A.'s network of broken sidewalks violated the civil rights of wheelchair users. They demanded a citywide commitment to repairs.
Garcetti and the council settled the case once the economy recovered, promising to spend at least $31 million a year on repairs. That obligation jumps to nearly $36 million after five years and to $41 million after a decade.
Even if a downturn hits, the city must spend no less than $25 million per year to remain in compliance with the

settlement agreement, according to Garcetti aides. That means they likely would have to look elsewhere for cuts.
They won't have much success reducing library hours, another area hit during the last recession. That's because voters passed a 2011 ballot measure increasing the minimum funding for libraries — an initiative placed on the ballot by Garcetti and other city elected officials.
Cuts at the Recreation and Parks Department also wouldn't make much of a dent, since that agency is also guaranteed a specific share of funding.
The city also has new spending obligations on housing.
Last summer, Garcetti and the council signed off on a legal settlement that requires city officials to spend at least $200 million on housing for disabled renters over the next 10 years. This year, in the first year of that agreement, $11 million is coming from the budget for basic services.
City funds could soon be limited in other ways, thanks to yet another legal fight.
Forfeiting revenue
Like many mayors before him, Garcetti has relied on the DWP to send the city budget what is billed as a yearly "surplus." But that practice has become the target of legal challenges, with ratepayer activists calling the money an illegal tax.
In an effort to settle those cases, Garcetti and the council cut the size of the payment to $242 million, down roughly $25 million from the previous year.
As part of the proposed settlement, city leaders agreed to limit the amount the DWP can transfer in future years. That would impede the city's ability to increse the funds taken from the DWP during a crisis, something previous mayors have done.
L.A.'s budget faces new constraints — financial commitments and forfeited revenue
Sidewalks: $31 million in yearly repairs
Business tax cut: $45 million per year in lost revenue
Disabled housing: $20 million in yearly expenses
DWP settlement (proposed): $25 million in reduced revenue
The city is also scaling back the business taxes it collects from key companies — lawyers, financial planners and other professional service firms. Garcetti secured passage of the reduction, which is being phased in over three years and is expected to remove $45 million annually from the budget.
Garcetti contends that business tax cuts, pursued strategically, stimulate the economy and ultimately produce more money for the budget. Still, if he changes his mind, he and the council would have a difficult time undoing their decision.
Under state law, any increase in the business tax would require a ballot measure and a citywide election, according to policy analysts.
The search for more money
Despite the looming budget pressures, Garcetti and the council managed to boost spending in two major areas this year: transportation and programs to address homelessness. Both were possible because voters agreed to tax themselves in the November election.
Garcetti and city lawmakers have been eyeing other sources of additional money.
In the mayor's latest budget, the city is expecting a $36-million increase in lodging taxes, almost all of it from Airbnb and other short-term rental services. That assumption has infuriated some housing advocates, who contend that Airbnb disrupts neighborhoods and drives up rents.
The mayor is also looking to generate $12 million this year from placing digital billboards on city property. But that strategy has not yet been approved by the council — and could face opposition from neighborhood groups.
Then there is the biggest windfall of all: an estimated $50 million per year from marijuana retailers, who are looking to operate legally in the wake of recent ballot measures on pot sales.
The city's strategy drew criticism from Laura Lake, a Westwood resident who fought one of the city's last big money-making strategies — 50-year leases ofmunicipal parking garages. The city is "desperate" for funds, she said, and is turning to solutions that will seriously affect neighborhoods.
Lake described digital billboards a a form of blight and argued that Airbnb is depriving Angelenos of rent-controlled housing. Marijuana retailers, because they deal in cash, may place an additional burden on police, she argued.
"I'm surprised the City Council isn't licensing brothels and casinos," Lake added. "I mean, why not?"
Garcetti contends the city's work on marijuana, billboard and home-sharing regulations is based on good policy, not a hunt for revenue. At the same time, he made clear he wants those funds to flow into the city budget.
"The voters passed marijuana [sales] and I'll be damned if the city isn't going to get some money from those increased sales, period," he said.

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Los Angeles will pay $450,000 in police sex assault case

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Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

1 message

Carolyn Hissong [redacted] Sat, Sep 23, 2017 at 3:18 AM
To: Carolyn comcast[redacted], Carolyn Hissong <[redacted], MAYOR PRESS CLIPS <myr.pressclips@lacity.org>, Naomi Seligman <naomi.seligman@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti:

Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president
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Daily News
Angelenos are good with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti running for president
By Elizabeth Chou
Mayor Eric Garcetti is looking presidential to some Angelenos.
A majority of local area residents polled earlier this summer said they are just fine with the Los Angeles mayor running for president, according to results released by Loyola Marymount University.
In a survey that received 914 responses, 62.7 percent of Los Angeles County residents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti trying for the nation's top political position. The percentage was slightly higher for residents of the city of Los Angeles, with 63.5 percent of those polled supportive of the idea.
Latinos were the most strongly in support, with 72.7 percent saying they back a presidential bid by Garcetti. The idea also polled the best with the 30-44 age-group, and among those who earn less than $40,000 annually.
Not everyone liked the thought of a run for president by Garcetti. The majority of those with a graduate degree and people with annual incomes of more than $100,000 said they do not support him running.
Details about the poll results and methodology can be found here.
The results provide further fodder for an ongoing parlor discussion by political observers around whether Garcetti is entertaining a run for president in 2020. Recent out-of-state trips by the Los Angeles mayor have fueled the speculation. He attended a Democratic Party convention in Wisconsin and participated in a fundraiser for a mayoral candidate in New Hampshire, a state that kicks off the presidential primaries.
Fernando Guerra, a Loyola Marymount political science professor who led the poll, says that at least for Angelenos, there is support for the idea of Garcetti running for president, but "naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles."

My News LA

LMU survey: 63% of Angelenos would support Garcetti for President

By City News Service

If Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti chooses to run for president, he need not worry about a local backlash, as a majority of county residents said in a new survey released Friday that they would support the move.

The question was asked of Los Angeles County residents as part of a survey conducted by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"At least in his hometown, Mayor Garcetti polls strongly as a potential candidate for president," said Fernando Guerra, director of the center. "Naturally, it's far too soon to tell what kind of support that could translate into outside of Los Angeles. But as of today, he'd have L.A.'s backing."

After taking a number of steps that some political observers have seen as preliminary maneuvering to running for president in 2020, Garcetti has not ruled out a presidential run when asked directly by reporters over the last few months — but he also has not ruled out a run for governor of California in 2018.

Garcetti, a Democrat, recently visited New Hampshire to support a mayoral candidate in Manchester.

The visit to the site of the nation's first presidential primary during the August trip also included cocktails in the Hamptons at the estate of billionaire Ronald Perelman, a major political donor.

The mayor also recently appeared at Democratic Party events in Wisconsin and at the Center for American Progress' Ideas Conference in Washington, D.C.

According to the survey, 63 percent of the 914 respondents said they would be "strongly supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of Garcetti launching a bid for the White House.

Support for a Garcetti presidential run was strongest among Latinos (73 percent), voters aged 30-44 (69 percent), and those earning less than $40,000 a year (74 percent). Those with advanced graduate degrees or earning more than $100,000 annually were the only groups mostly opposed.

Even among residents who self-identified as conservative, 51 said they supported a Garcetti candidacy.

Daily News

Opinion: Keep attention on Aliso Canyon gas leak and its victims

By Christy Smith

Harvey, Irma, Jose, Katia and, now, Maria. Headline-snatching hurricanes and tropical thunderstorms are rapidly becoming a dystopian staple.

With Texas recovering from the devastating effects of Harvey, Floridians reeling after Irma and Puerto Rico still underwater from Maria, Americans are justifiably consumed by the current hurricane hype. As we send our well-wishes, the whole nation gives our sympathy and unwavering support to the victims of these natural disasters.

Unfortunately — as is often the case with the volatile nature of news — as one issue receives justified attention and coverage, others fade into obscurity while still desperately requiring public attention and administrative oversight. This has quickly become Porter Ranch's reality.

As the largest natural gas disaster in U.S. history, the 2015 Porter Ranch gas leak was by no means an insignificant issue.

Porter Ranch cradles the 36,000-acre Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, essentially a subterranean warehouse capable of containing up to 80 billion cubic feet of natural gas. On the morning of Oct. 23, 2015, a ruptured casing on one of the wells led to a torrential outpouring of methane into the atmosphere.

The emissions were so massive that NASA reported the damage could be detected and viewed from space. Approximately 8,000 families were forced to relocate at the time, with local schools shut down and business suffering from consumer flight.

While methane is not lethal to the same degree as carbon monoxide, medical research points to it having a variety of chronic health consequences. Known to cause bloody noses, nausea, and headaches to vomiting and rashes, methane is also considered highly dangerous due to its odorless composition, which prevents easy detection of a leak.

With its capability to trap radiation, trapping heat in the atmosphere, methane is also a damaging contributor to climate change and, on the scale of Porter Ranch's leak, deadly. The Environmental Defense Fund estimated that by mid-December the Porter Ranch leak's methane emissions were on par with 7 million new cars or six coal-burning factories. Over the span of a four-month ordeal, nearly 100,000 metric tons of methane were released into the atmosphere, which effectively doubled the emissions rate of the entire Los Angeles basin.

Indeed, Porter Ranch was on the lips of some of the world's leading figures in Paris last year as they debated and disagreed about the environmental impacts of climate change. L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, before the U.S. commitment to and subsequent withdrawal from the Paris agreement, lamented the crisis as a "natural disaster."

However, it seems to be far more than just that. More likely, this was also a human disaster. Since then, the Southern California Gas Co. has been buried in lawsuits surrounding corporate negligence, and has paid up to $465 million in costs associated with relocations and cleanup.

While the corporation undoubtedly feels it is doing a sufficient amount to cover reparations for this catastrophic blunder, recent developments are worrying.

A medical study that was being conducted as a follow-up to the gas leak under the leadership of Dr. Jeffrey Nordella was abruptly blocked, because Dr. Nordella saw his employment as medical director of Porter Ranch Quality Care

terminated. Since the leak, Nordella had been tracking different developments in more than 100 patients who had been affected by the methane leak. Nordella, as reported by the Daily News, said he is concerned these developments could disrupt the continuity of care for the patients he sees.
Recently, state regulators made a critical mistake in declaring the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility safe enough to resume natural gas injections, ignoring the concerns of doctors, local residents and former Aliso Canyon employees. With public interest in Porter Ranch waning, the corporate and regulatory negligence, environmental consequences and health crises that caused and have followed the largest natural gas leak in U.S. history could very well dwindle into obscurity. Without adamant attentiveness, the thousands of victims affected by this ordeal, people who desperately require attention, will not be heard.
We need to keep Aliso Canyon closed.

My News LA

LA gets closer to more housing construction for average income people

By City News Service
City officials Friday released the final guidelines for a new incentive-based program for affordable housing production in Los Angeles near transit lines that was approved by voters last November as part of Measure JJJ.
The measure requires developers to build a certain amount of affordable housing if requesting changes to the city's general plan or other zoning and construction rules for projects, but also directed the city to develop the Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program.
The guidelines are final and do not require the approval of the City Council. Under Measure JJJ, the city planning director has final authority on the program.
"Voters sent us a clear and resounding message last November: end the crushing affordability crisis," Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Measure JJJ gives us a tool to do exactly that. The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."
The program creates a new system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within one-half mile of a major transit stop.
The program also grants higher incentives to projects that are 100 percent affordable or closest to high-quality transit areas. Qualifying projects are allowed to have additional density or floor area ratio to encourage the construction of additional affordable units.
"Zoning and housing production are linked at the core, and with our desperate need for more affordable housing, the incentives contained in the updated TOC program, which are mandated by the voters, puts more density around public transit where it makes sense," said Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee.
"Along with other recent actions we've taken to increase affordable housing for all Angelenos, we can look forward to a more vibrant, livable and sustainable Los Angeles," he said.

Daily News

LA one step closer to more affordable housing near transit lines

By City News Service
Final guidelines were released Friday for a new incentive-based program approved by voters in November to encourage the production of affordable housing near Los Angeles transit lines.
The measure requires developers to build a certain amount of affordable housing if the builder requests changes to the city's general plan or other zoning and construction rules.
The guidelines are final and do not require the approval of the City Council. Under Measure JJJ, the city planning director has final authority on the program.
"Voters sent us a clear and resounding message last November: End the crushing affordability crisis," Mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Measure JJJ gives us a tool to do exactly that."
The TOC program will help us build sustainable, inclusive housing along our growing transit network — so more Angelenos can wake up in safe and affordable homes, catch a train nearby, and get where they're going on time."
The program is designed to create a system of financial incentives for residential projects meeting certain affordable housing requirements that are located within a half-mile of a major transit stop.
The program would also grant higher incentives to projects that are 100 percent affordable or closest to high-quality transit areas. Qualifying projects would be allowed to have additional density or floor area ratio to encourage the construction of additional affordable units.
"Zoning and housing production are linked at the core, and with our desperate need for more affordable housing, the incentives contained in the updated TOC program, which are mandated by the voters, puts more density around public transit where it makes sense," said Councilman Jose Huizar, chair of the Planning, Land Use and Management Committee.
"Along with other recent actions we've taken to increase affordable housing for all Angelenos, we can look forward to a more vibrant, livable and sustainable Los Angeles."

LA Times

Mexico earthquake crumbles concrete buildings, sending deadly warning to California

By Ron Gon Lin

Seismic safety experts long have warned that brittle concrete frame buildings pose a particularly deadly risk during a major earthquake.

But a horrifying video taken during this week's magnitude 7.1 Mexico quake may do more to highlight the risk than years of reports and studies.

In it, sirens blare, utility poles sway. Then in the background, a building wobbles. Concrete starts falling out of a ground-floor column. Then the columns flex, and the upper floors come crashing down, sinking into a cloud of dust."¡Dios mío! ¡Dios mío!" a woman is heard saying. "My God! My God!"

The crumbled Enrique Rebsamen school in Mexico City — a three-story structure where at least 25 died, including 21 students — was made of concrete, as were many other structures that fell to the ground.

While they may be stout and muscular in appearance, concrete buildings without a robust level of steel reinforcement can see their columns peel off in chunks and then explode when exposed to violent side-to-side shaking.

In Los Angeles, dozens died when concrete structures tumbled in the 1971 magnitude 6.1 Sylmar earthquake. Several who perished were on a newly built hospital campus. And when two concrete office towers collapsed in 2011 during a 6.3 temblor in Christchurch, New Zealand, the 133 people who died accounted for more than 70% of the final toll.

After the Sylmar quake, officials quickly updated building requirements to add more steel reinforcement to new concrete buildings. But there was no systematic effort by many governments around the world to address the defect in existing concrete buildings.

'IT'S SUCH A TREMENDOUS IMPACT'

Mexico quake shows what seismic experts have long warned

Concrete buildings dot the California landscape, a popular form of construction during the postwar boom years.

But cities are just now beginning to grapple with how to make these buildings safer.

In 2015, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti pushed through a landmark law mandating retrofits of concrete buildings, hoping to avoid a catastrophe when the next earthquake comes. The city estimates there are about 1,500 such structures.

The law requires that once owners are given an order to evaluate a building, they will have 25 years to retrofit it if a study determines the structure is indeed vulnerable. City officials are in the process of identifying buildings that would be subject to the law.

A couple of other cities have done the same.

Santa Monica earlier this year published a list of vulnerable buildings — concrete, steel and wood-frame apartments — and enacted a new law requiring them to be evaluated and retrofitted if found to be vulnerable. West Hollywood also has enacted retrofit laws for the same classes of buildings.

Garcetti and seismic safety experts say the catastrophic images from Mexico this week will raise awareness of the dangers.

"Any building owner who thinks they should sit back and relax for the next 20 years should view that video. And let's figure out a way to get to work now," Garcetti said in an interview. "What's more expensive? The loss of your entire property — let alone the loss of lives — or the investment in making sure that no earthquake of that size will destroy your building or kill anyone?"

The collapsed school is a case in point. California-based structural engineers who looked at a Times photo of the school's remains said the collapse was consistent with the failure of a brittle concrete building.

Structural engineer David Cocke, vice president of the Oakland-based Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, pointed out how a concrete column at the school can be seen broken in half — a clean break. He said there should have been more steel reinforcement in the concrete that would have allowed the column to bend when shaken, not break like a piece of chalk.

"When they break in half like that, then you've lost it all," Cocke said.

Structural engineer Kit Miyamoto, a member of the California Seismic Safety Commission, said the photo "looked like the columns popped out of the building … there's no adequate reinforcement. It's exactly the problem of nonductile [brittle] concrete."

And the video showing the concrete building collapsing, Miyamoto said, has "such a tremendous impact. Most people think that they are helpless, it's too expensive to fix. That's a myth. This video can defeat that myth. Evidence exists, people are dying and we know exactly what to do."

"Actually being able to physically see the process — I think it's incredibly effective. It explains what a lot of the issues are," seismologist Lucy Jones said. "Concrete buildings seem sturdy … and being able to see directly why that's not true has got to start."

To be sure, some buildings in developing nations are not as well-engineered as some buildings in California, Cocke said. But "these buildings are not that dissimilar to some of our worst buildings. We're going to have failures on some of our older, nonductile concrete buildings that can be catastrophic — when we have intense shaking."

The video, Cocke said, also shows the threat of buildings with flimsy first stories, where relatively skinny columns hold up heavier upper floors. The so-called "soft-story" flaw is found in many California apartments, where the ground floor is built to house carports, garages or storefronts; flimsy supports can snap and collapse in shaking.

Other cities are looking at the issue.

Jones is now working with the Southern California Assn. of Governments to help cities come up with seismic retrofit

legislation to propose to their elected leaders. Jones said Long Beach is looking to hire a consultant to create an inventory of seismically vulnerable buildings. And Ventura has directed its city staff to work with Jones and SCAG to develop an approach for unretrofitted brick buildings and wood apartment buildings with flimsy first stories.
The brittle concrete defect gained considerable attention after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake caused the collapse of the newly constructed Olive View Medical Center.
Several other concrete structures came tumbling down in that earthquake, in which 52 people in all were killed as a result of concrete structure failure.
Brittle concrete buildings also collapsed in the magnitude 6.7 Northridge earthquake in 1994, including a Bullock's department store and Kaiser Permanente medical office.
In addition to stabilizing concrete structures, efforts focused on other vulnerable buildings have shown signs of success.
Los Angeles' 1981 law requiring retrofitting of 8,000 brick buildings saved lives: Although 60 people died in the Northridge quake, none of them were in brick structures. L.A. and a handful of other cities in California are now also requiring retrofits for apartment buildings with weak first stories.
Retrofitting concrete buildings is considered more costly. The fixes could cost $1 million or more per structure. Occupants may have to move out during the renovation at an additional cost.
Yet a seismic retrofit is a bargain compared with the cost of replacing a collapsed building, Miyamoto said, which will be unusable and unable to generate rental income for owners. "There is no excuse to not do it," Miyamoto said. "It's spending 5% to 10% of the replacement cost to address the seismic strengthening."
Two concrete buildings at the San Fernando Veterans Administration Hospital crumbled in the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, killing 49 people. (Bruce Cox / Los Angeles Times)The Pyne Gould Corp. building collapsed when the magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2011. It was built in the 1960s, before the adoption of modern seismic standards for concrete buildings. (Hannah Johnston / Getty Images)
The experience in this week's Mexico earthquake also illustrates another fact: Just because your home or workplace survived a previous earthquake doesn't mean it will endure the next one.
A common sentiment in Los Angeles, as in Mexico City, was that buildings that survived past earthquakes were invulnerable to shaking. That's wrong.
Despite several devastating quakes — in 1933 in Long Beach, 1971 in Sylmar and 1994 in Northridge — many vulnerable buildings constructed during Southern California's rapid expansion in the 20th century simply have not had to face the intense shaking that scientists know can happen during an earthquake.
The last magnitude 7.8 quake that struck Southern California hit in 1857, long before the modern era of Los Angeles.
"I hear quite often: 'Hey, we went through the 1994 Northridge earthquake. We're OK.' Well, that's a false sense of security," Miyamoto said. "This earthquake proved it. Doing well in one earthquake doesn't mean you'll do well in the next."
At its closest point, the San Andreas fault is just 30 miles from downtown L.A. That closeness means the tallest skyscrapers in the nation's second-largest city could be quite vulnerable during a megaquake.
A U.S. Geological Survey simulation co-written by Jones and published in 2008 said it was plausible that five steel high-rise buildings throughout Southern California — whether in downtown L.A., Orange County or San Bernardino — could come tumbling down should a magnitude 7.8 earthquake strike the San Andreas.
After the Northridge earthquake, a flaw was discovered in a common type of steel building that showed how the frame can fracture in an earthquake; Los Angeles and most other cities in California have not passed laws requiring retrofits to repair this design flaw. (Garcetti on Friday said L.A. building officials are studying Santa Monica's new law passed this year requiring retrofits of steel buildings.)
"We don't really know what's going to happen to those really tall buildings. We've never put them through a really big earthquake," Jones said.
Downtown L.A.'s shortest buildings also haven't been tested with extreme shaking, Jones said. At no point in modern history has downtown Los Angeles endured the kind of intense shaking that the San Fernando Valley did during the Northridge quake.
"Your Northridge-type earthquake is about as bad as it gets for small buildings like a single-family house or a small apartment complex," Jones said. But while places like Northridge and Chatsworth have endured what is close to the worst-case shaking, places a bit farther away — like Pasadena, Hollywood and downtown L.A. — have not.
"Even Santa Monica" has not, she said, despite the intensity of damage in that coastal city during the '94 quake. "The reason there was so much damage there was because of how old the buildings are," Jones said.
Different earthquakes will test different buildings.
A sharp magnitude 7 earthquake on an urban fault that runs through the L.A. metropolitan region — such as the Newport-Inglewood, Whittier or Sierra Madre faults — will test short buildings like no other earthquake in the modern era, Jones said.
Meanwhile, a magnitude 8 on the San Andreas fault likely will spare the worst from striking single-family homes in places farther from the fault, including the L.A. Basin. But the same megaquake could result in "collapses of high-rises at relatively large distances from the fault," Jones said.
Miyamoto said L.A. is on the right track in retrofit policy, but should consider accelerating the deadline for retrofit requirement.
"We should go faster," he said. "The earthquake will not wait for us."

ABC Los Angeles

Mayor Garcetti discusses early warning system, status as sanctuary city

By Adrienne Alpert

The Mexico City earthquake turns attention to Los Angeles preparedness, and L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti is focused on both an early warning system and an emergency plan all residents should have.

While the county has a response team in Mexico, the city's firefighters are home from Houston and Florida hurricane response, "one of the largest and longest deployments in American history." They may go to Puerto Rico next.

Southern California has earthquake sensors, and other parts of the state are expanding their systems. Appearing on Eyewitness Newsmakers, Garcetti said by the end of next year, we should have a phone app sending the earthquake early warning. In the meantime, the mayor said, "You need an analog plan in a digital era." He said every family and workplace should drill where to go and what to do if communications are lost.

North Korea's renewed nuclear threat, now saying it will test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific, is very worrying to the mayor, who said Pyongyang may have the capability to reach Los Angeles. He said the city is relying on the Department of Defense and federal authorities for information.

Viewers wrote in questions for this Ask the Mayor program. One asked how citizens can get involved in the 2028 Olympics. There is a volunteer section on the website www.la28.org. Since the announcement L.A. will be a host city in 11 years, 14,000 people have already signed up. The mayor was pleased the promised Olympic money for Los Angeles youth sports is coming in soon so "a 7 or 8-year-old can compete in her backyard in 2028."

Many viewer questions focused on affordable housing and homelessness. Garcetti is pushing the city council to approve his linkage fee. It would charge luxury home developers a fee that would fund affordable housing. Developers say it will drive up housing costs even more.

To viewers who say the city is too crowded already, the mayor said he's sympathetic to preserving neighborhoods, but density needs to increase in transit corridors. He said rents are high because the city hasn't built enough, and density has to go somewhere. Using new funding sources, Garcetti talked about tripling the pace of affordable housing.

See more from his interview below:

Is Los Angeles sending any rescue teams to Mexico?

Yes. We have on the ground firefighters from Los Angeles County who are one out of two counties in the country who are authorized to leave the country when we have foreign aid. Our Los Angeles city firefighters were both in Houston and in Florida. One of the largest, if not the longest, deployments ever in American history. They may go to Puerto Rico. We just see so many events happening in so many places.

What is L.A. doing about an early warning system?

Well, earthquake safety has been a strong priority of mine. First, passing the toughest ordinance to strengthen our buildings that collapsed in 1994 and in 1971. But second, we do have an early warning system now on the ground, which is more sensors here than anywhere in the country has funded. We have it in many schools. By the end of next year, we think we will have it so that it can push to people's phones using cutting-edge technology so that we can get alerts that can save us precious seconds of time to get under a table, protect our family, protect our friends. But the last thing is people need a plan, and I keep saying this. I'm a broken record. I think especially for new generation of folks who just think our equipment will help us, you need an analog plan in a digital era. Where you're going to go whether you're at work, you're at home, in neighborhood, what's the safest place to be? Practice with your children. Practice with your family. Practice at work because that is literally what will save your life.

When the plan rolls out and gets to our phones next year, that would be just for earthquakes in the Los Angeles area. Is the West Coast system still waiting for funding?

Yes, it's actually for Southern California, so not just L.A., but we have sensors throughout Southern California. Northern California hopes to build theirs and to catch up in other parts of the state. And then yes, to link it in to the western United States as well, but for now the stuff that is here in Southern California. We will get those warnings, and we want to tie it in, like they do in Japan, to things like elevators that can shut down, that can go to the next floor, let people off so you're not stuck in between floors. Some of our subways or light rail would stop so that they don't derail in the middle of something like that and lose lives. So we're going to also tie in the technology, not just the sensors.

North Korea has threatened a nuclear strike test over the ocean. Is L.A. doing anything? Can the city do anything to prepare should any missiles get launched our way?

It is very worrying. It seems like the technology is probably there for North Korea to reach the western United States, the West Coast, maybe even as far down as Los Angeles. We monitor very closely. We're in touch with the Department of Defense and our federal authorities. I've been in the Navy for 12 years working in the Pacific fleet area, so I am well aware of this threat. I hope that our diplomatic means and sanctions can be exhausted. Sometimes rhetoric can ramp things up, and it can be crazy. I'm hoping that we can ramp down the rhetoric, figure out a way to be strong, to defend our interest so to use whatever means we can to make sure it doesn't end up as a tragedy.

Do we have any kind of defensive system here in Los Angeles?

Not that the city of Los Angeles owns. The Department of Defense does have a defense system for the western United States.

Vickie Mays of Los Angeles asks, "The 2028 Olympics is a great time for a planning process that can benefit not only sports, but education, neighborhood development and civic engagement. How can the average person get involved?"

We're so excited the Olympics are coming home. Just last week I was in Lima, Peru, and it's going to be the third time

and only the third city to have that, and what I was blown away in the lead up is that we had 14,000 people sign up to volunteer already even though it's 11 years in the future. Our plan is to use that volunteer base to get engaged, to get involved, to do exactly what our viewer was saying, to adopt a school, help us with homelessness, clean up a neighborhood, be a coach and help maybe train a 6 or 7-year-old who could maybe train who could compete in her backyard here in the 2028 Olympics. Our first payment from the International Olympic Committee because we negotiated so well to have dollars for youth sports will start coming in the beginning of next year, so in 2018 we will start to see the fees in city's parks lessened, make it universal access to all sports for kids. I want to work with high schools and have that baton pass so that a kid could get involved in swimming at 5 years old and by the time they're 18 can have great coaching, great opportunities without having to worry about the cost.

Lorie Rust from Palmdale asks, "We don't want a sanctuary city, and we don't want our tax dollars used on illegal immigrants. We would like the mayor to reflect the views of his constituents, not just a certain sect or political party."

Everybody has a definition of what a sanctuary city is. I bet under her definition, which is a place that protects criminals and if you're an undocumented citizen bonus points. We're not that. But what we are and have been since Daryl Gates was our police chief, five different police chiefs, and I guess I'm too pro-cops to stop listening to them, is that we have a system that does not deputize essentially our cops to be immigration officials. That is the federal government's responsibility not ours. To build trust in our communities since for instance we just took down MS-13 in a huge two-year long operation, very dangerous gang, we were able to do that because we have trust in those communities where some people are documented and some aren't, that LAPD is somebody they can trust and tell them 'oh that is where the bad guy lives' or "hey check it out over there in that apartment." It makes us all safer when people come out of the shadows and are able to report crime and participate with LAPD.

City Council wants to declare L.A. as city of sanctuary, not as a sanctuary city. Will you support that if that vote takes place?

Yes, I've used that term and I always say that if being a city of sanctuary means that our cops do their job and the feds do theirs and we abide by the Constitution because we can't hold people longer than the Constitution allows, then yes that's what we are and proudly so. But I think that there is a misconception. A lot of people think a sanctuary city are mayors in the country saying "Please come here if you are a criminal." And that couldn't be further from the truth. We all want to get the bad criminals, and I'm worried that our federal policies are casting a wide net now. Not catching the bad sharks in the sea but are instead picking up a bunch of fish that are causing no harm.

John C. of Long Beach asks, "When and where will affordable housing be built? How many single units?"

Well it's being built already. You can go to the housing community investment department in our city to look where it is. We have a regular list. You can sign up to get on the waiting lists as well to get in the housing. It's not enough though. It's one of the reasons I am pushing our city council to pass as soon as possible. It's in its last phases so viewers can call their council members. Something called a linkage fee so whenever we see one of these large, luxury condominiums or apartment buildings come up in Downtown or Koreatown they'd have to pay a fee that we would then put aside to then build affordable housing for the rest of us, something that would subsidize literally thousands of units throughout our city.

Theresa Ramirez of Los Angeles asks, "Why do you support the overbuilding of housing units in Los Angeles, and specifically in the Echo Park, Frog Town areas? Our streets, roads, and freeways cannot handle the added traffic congestion that is caused by building for more units on a lot that used to have one unit."

"I think housing needs to be built, but it does need to be built in the right place. There is no one neighborhood or one place that I say automatically give a green light. So I'm sympathetic with people who want to preserve the single-family character of neighborhoods, but the tradeoff is that we have to along those corridors where we are investing public transportation, along the Wilshire corridor, places like the Crenshaw-LAX line that we are building now. Density has to go someplace and if we build nothing like we did in the '90s, it's not that people don't come here. They make it even worse in the traffic in the neighborhoods because they cram in what looks like one home might have four families in it. We need to build good, quality, affordable housing, but I do think we should put it where there is transit and public transportation so we don't have bottlenecks in all of our neighborhoods."

Phoenicia of Los Angeles asks, "With the current increase in the homeless population in Los Angeles, what steps are being taken to house this population, as well as housing for displaced families due to the increase in rent prices?"

It's my No. 1 concern. It's where I spend the most time. I have a war room that I've convened in City Hall where I spend hours each week on this. We, thanks to the voters, have HHH dollars which are 10,000 units worth of new housing that we will build, thanks to the voters of Los Angeles. Measure H which was countywide will also give us additional dollars to help with subsidizing and things like rapid rehousing, which is a fancy way of saying if you're on the verge of homelessness and you call the county or the 511 service they have there, you can get assistance.

And now we've seen Hepatitis A starting to show up in Los Angeles.

It really exploded in San Diego, but there's a couple cases here. I've really encouraged our county officials and our fire departments working for them to declare a public health emergency before it spread widely, especially in the encampment areas of Downtown and other places. We're giving our first responders and others who live on the street access to getting vaccinations as well. It's much worse down South, we saw it also in Santa Cruz, but we want to stop it before it spreads here.

Washington Post

It's already time to wonder if the NFL made a big mistake putting two teams in LA

By Mark Maske

It took more than two decades for the NFL to return to Los Angeles. The league's explanation during much of that time was that it wanted to make certain that when it did go back, it would be done in a way that would ensure lasting success.

It took all of two weekends into the first season with two L.A. franchises to make it fair to wonder whether the league's decision to permit the Chargers to join the Rams in Los Angeles was misguided.

"No one is covering what a massive mistake that the league and Chargers have made by moving this team to LA," Joe Banner, a former executive for the Philadelphia Eagles and Cleveland Browns, wrote this week on Twitter.

The concerns bubbled to the surface after the Chargers drew a crowd of just 25,381 to the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., for last Sunday's loss to the Miami Dolphins in their home opener. It's one thing to play in a tiny, 27,000-seat temporary home. It's another thing to fail to fill it.

The Rams drew 56,612 to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum last Sunday for their loss to the Washington Redskins. That made for a combined attendance of 81,993 for the two NFL franchises in Los Angeles last weekend. The USC-Texas game last Saturday at the Coliseum drew 84,714.

"Did we do the wrong thing with the Chargers? It's probably way too early to say that," a high-ranking executive with one NFL team said. "Let's see how it plays out. Let's see how they both do when they get into the new stadium. But I guess it does make you start to think a little bit."

The league likewise is taking a long-term view.

"They knew going in this wasn't a one-game or one-year solution where they could turn a light on and get the support they expect to get moving toward the opening of the new [stadium]," Joe Lockhart, the NFL's executive vice president of communications and public affairs, said during a conference call with reporters this week. "We remain confident the city of Los Angeles can support two franchises and committed toward making that happen."

The $2.6 billion stadium the Rams and Chargers will share in Inglewood, Calif., is scheduled to open in 2020. It is clear that in the meantime, the Rams and Chargers have work to do.

The owners voted in January 2016 to allow the Rams to move from St. Louis to L.A. and gave the Chargers the option to join them. Some within the sport thought that the option was granted as a consolation prize to Dean Spanos, the chairman of the Chargers, by owners who respected Spanos but preferred the Inglewood stadium proposal by Rams owner Stan Kroenke to the Carson project put forth by the Chargers and Oakland Raiders. The Chargers exercised their L.A. option in January of this year after failing to secure public funding for a new stadium in San Diego.

But was the NFL simply leaving San Diego because it could not secure a stadium solution there, rather than putting a second team in Los Angeles because it actually believed that was a good idea? It's an interesting question. Eric Garcetti, the mayor of Los Angeles, told "The Dan Patrick Show" this month that he would have been fine with the Chargers remaining in San Diego and the Rams being the lone L.A. franchise.

"We embrace any team that comes," Garcetti said in that radio interview. "We're certainly happy to have the Chargers in L.A. But I think we could have been happy with just one [team], too."

The Chargers have another chance this Sunday when they host the Kansas City Chiefs at StubHub. The biggest number to come out of that game won't be quarterback Philip Rivers's passing yardage or pass rusher Joey Bosa's sack total. It will be the attendance figure.

"We know going into this new market, it's going to take time to really authentically ingratiate yourself," John Spanos, the Chargers' president of football operations and a son of Dean Spanos, said in training camp this summer. "It's something that's going to take time. And that's something that we plan to do. And we also know that in an L.A. market, nothing's ever given to you.

"We don't show up expecting a red carpet, expecting anything to be given to us. We know that anything we gain, we have to earn. And so that's our approach. We have to work hard and earn the community's respect and earn their trust, and we look forward to doing that."

Daily News

Opinion: California votes for March madness over June Gloom

By John Phillips

With supermajorities in both houses of the state Legislature, the governor's mansion and every statewide constitutional office on the ballot, there isn't much that California Democrats can't get if they want it badly enough.

In the most recent legislative session the state's ruling class voted to make California a sanctuary state, jacked up fuel and energy costs in the name of curbing global warming, and gutted the spirit of Megan's Law by allowing convicted sex offenders to get their name off the required registration list.

They even approved a measure that would designate the Augustynolophus morrisi, a duck-billed dinosaur that roamed California 66 million years ago, as the state's official dinosaur.

No word yet if 79-year-old Gov. Jerry Brown will resist the impulse to designate himself and sign it.

In the midst of all this, and without much fanfare, the state Legislature passed a bill that could have a serious impact on the 2020 presidential race.

Last Friday, Sacramento lawmakers voted to change the state's primary date from June to March, which would allocate California's massive number of delegates just after the nation's first contests in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina.

The theory behind the move is that the nominees of both parties will likely be chosen before our traditional June

primary, and this is the only way to get candidates to pay attention to our concerns.
In expressing his support for the change, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla told CNN, "By having an earlier voice for candidates of all parties, for that matter, would make the candidates pay attention to issues that Californians care about, like health care access, like environmental protection, like diversity — not just talking immigration issues but workforce issues."
The conventional spin is also that this would elevate the chances of a California Democrat winning the Democratic nomination, as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and Gov. Jerry Brown have all been rumored to be mulling presidential bids.
Heck, even Congresswoman Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles, has been spending time raising money and campaigning for fellow Democrats in New Hampshire, which, of course, is home to the first-in-the-nation primary — although to be fair she has always spent a lot of time outside of her district, she doesn't even live there.
But in their rush to get a California Democrat in the White House, I would warn Golden State lawmakers about the law of unintended consequences.
Because of smartphones, the internet and other forms of technology, the definition of what is "local" has changed fundamentally. The regionalism that used to exist in the country is not as pronounced as it used to be.
Let's not forget that Donald Trump beat U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, R-Fla., in the 2016 Florida primary, and would have crushed former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, had he stayed in the race. Also, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton easily defeated Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the state of his birth, New York.
In my estimation, moving up the primary in the nation's most populated state would be most beneficial to a celebrity Democratic candidate. The Democratic field will likely be large and filled with a bunch of politicians that nobody has ever heard of. If a Michael Moore, Rosie O'Donnell, Tom Hanks or Alec Baldwin jumped in the race, they would instantly start out with a much higher name identification than some random governor or member of congress.
It would also create space for a bored billionaire, like Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg or enviro-sugar daddy Tom Steyer to jump in and buy themselves relevance in the race.
Whether it's "March Madness" or "June gloom," the fact remains, the three Democrats who will not be helped by the date change are Eric Garcetti, Kamala Harris and Jerry Brown.

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Connect Create Collaborate

Nicole Serrano <nicole.serrano@lacity.org>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

2 messages

Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org> Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:16 AM
To: Cate Hurley <cate.hurley@lacity.org>
Bcc: myr.pressclips@lacity.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti

LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
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LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain
REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president
REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
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THRILLIST: Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

LA Times
L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from "Jane the Virgin," Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"The strike has strong support across the board," said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. "These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life."

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

"We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home," Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing $10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost $25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That's a net loss of $15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

"Very little in the way of educational activity," Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. "At one point, they tried to show the movie 'Christopher Robin,' but the sound quality was so bad it couldn't be understood. Couldn't read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything."

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. "We kept him home today," she said of her son, "and probably will for the rest of the week."

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers "heroes."

"Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids' side," García said. "We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike."

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

"As I've said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I'll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this," he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

"This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles," said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of "looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We've got to change that."

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times
In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in

Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times
Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been

movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposalunveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses … all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child … gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: The Hill, Daily Mail

LA Daily News
LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost $25 million in attendance, but saved $10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher rentention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about $25 million, and saved $10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates $68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and librarians. https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464 …

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing … We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA – skeptical of claims that the district's $1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reitereated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At at school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution … in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that LosAngeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says $15 million was lost by the district yesterday: $25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved $10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLAnow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: KNX 1070

Reuters
Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion
Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: Telemundo

Reuters
Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD

spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinitiate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost $130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost $800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages $75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News

'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly $9 billion and L.A. Unified has $1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which includedactions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with $1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether its a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times
With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodmon, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made

solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,' " said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News
Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall
By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist
LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco
'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and a led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday.

"We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group
As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest services."

The warrant also seeks "all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors" and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others "assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, "the scandal is what's legal."

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used "straw donors" to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave $60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The "Committee for a Safer Los Angeles" was an entity called an "independent expenditure committee." Garcetti's adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was "barely aware" of it and had "nothing" to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of "behested payments," unlimited contributions that are made at the "behest" of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has "behested" over $41 million from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for $1 million to the "Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles," and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave $3 million to the "Los Angeles Parks Foundation" at Garcetti's request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price "behested" over $245,000 for the "Coalition for Responsible Community Development," which has a stated mission to "improve local planning."

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he'd have a building named after him.

LA Times
Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than $1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly $2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than $1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that's about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really "cost-neutral" as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential reportfrom then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, "because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants."

"It's frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on," said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. "The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments," Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight
How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an "inevitable" frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.1

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our "five corners" series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The "five corners" refers to what we claim are the the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters2; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid.What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries3 could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press
Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and $25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

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THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

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DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in

which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

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DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

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LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist
Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend
By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

The 3rd Annual Women's March LA is happening this Saturday, January 19, with marchers gathering at Pershing Square at 532 South Olive Street in Downtown LA. The demonstration kicks off at 8:30am with a Tongva Nation Blessing, followed by speakers at 9am for around an hour. At 10am, the march will kick off with participants walking from Pershing Square to City Hall where programming on that stage will start at 11am. The whole event concludes around 2pm, and while you don't need a ticket or anything, organizers are asking attendees to register in advance to give them an idea of how many people to expect.

How to get there

Security will be tight and plenty of roads will be blocked off as per usual, so take one of the many rail lines to the 7th Street/Metro Center Station if you can, which is just a third of a mile from Pershing Square. Keep in mind, however, that in previous years the trains were packed and it took much longer to get Downtown than usual, so allow extra time. Parking will be close to impossible, but a Lyft or Uber should be able to drop you off a short walk from the starting point.

What's the lineup of speakers and performers?

Organizers will most likely be making additions to the speaker lineup until the last minute, but for now, confirmed presenters include celebs, government officials and public advocates like LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, actress and LGBT activist Laverne Cox, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, transgender activist Bamby Salcedo, U.S. Representative Katie Hill, and State Senator Maria Elena Durazo. Performances by the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles and musicians MILCK, Raja Kumari, Maya Jupiter, and Aloe Blacc are also part of the program.

What else to expect

The first year's message was "Hear our voice," and last year's calls to action (with the midterm election less than 10 months away at the time) were "Hear our vote" and "Power to the polls." This year, Women's March LA is all about "Truth to Power," focused (according to organizers) on showing elected representatives that they're being held accountable and to encourage officials to speak truth to power at all levels of government. Look for community partner booths at the end of the route in and around City Hall, where you'll be able to do everything from register to vote to support non-profits and grassroots organizations.

Oh, and you remember that Fearless Girl statue that made news a while back when she went head to head with the Charging Bull statue in Lower Manhattan? Well you can get an up-close look at her when she's on display in Grand Park right next to City Hall; Kristen Visbal, the artist who sculpted it, will also appear as a special guest.

Which hashtags to use

The Twitter account for the LA march is @wmnsmarchla and, in addition to #womensmarch #womensmarchla #WMLA2019 and #TruthToPower, other hashtags to consider adding to your posts include #MeetMeAtTheMarch#WomensWave #womensrights #hearourvoice and #powertothepolls.

Where to get Women's March merch

If you order online now, you won't get any of the items in time for the march, but 100 percent of the proceeds from sales of official merchandise (all of which is designed by local artisans and produced in the area) go to the Women's March LA Foundation, which organizes the march. It's a big part of how the group raises funds to pull the whole thing off, so buy something online anyway and/or make a purchase from one of the vendor stands on Saturday. In addition to Truth to Power and Women's March LA-branded hats and T-shirts, there's some great Ruth Bader Ginsburg stuff available including a hoodie that reads "You Can't Spell Truth Without Ruth." Amen.

If you need last-minute poster ideas

You can find inspiration on Pinterest, but if you're not the DIY type, you can purchase downloadable templates on Amazon. That said, we're sure you can come up with something fresh and witty on your own -- let the Putin/government shutdown/build a wall puns begin...

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Cate Hurley | **Communications**
Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
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Riki Esquer <riki.esquer@lacity.org> Wed, Jan 16, 2019 at 7:56 AM
To: "MOCS (Mayor's Office of City Services)" <mayor.mocs@lacity.org>

Mayor Eric Garcetti
LA TIMES: L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
LA TIMES: In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
LA TIMES: Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
LA DAILY NEWS: LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost $25 million in attendance, but saved $10 million in wages
LA OPINION: Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain
REUTERS: Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president
REUTERS: Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
NBC NEWS: 'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
LA TIMES: With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
LA DAILY NEWS: Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall
LAIST: LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
LA TACO: 'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
SCNG: Opinion: As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
LA TIMES: Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
FIVE THIRTY EIGHT: How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
ASSOCIATED PRESS: Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago
THRILLIST: Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend

LA Times
L.A. teachers bask in support for strike, but pressure grows to settle amid financial losses
By: Howard Blume and Doug Smith

It's been a heady two days for striking Los Angeles teachers and their union leaders.

Rain failed to fizzle huge rallies. People brought free tacos and "Tofurky for Teachers" to the picket lines. And their strike became a cause celebre of liberal politicians such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

It was all that L.A. schools Supt. Austin Beutner could do to get in a cautionary word in about the harm he said the strike was doing to the nation's second-largest school district and its students.

But as the strike enters its third day — and a likely fourth and fifth — there will be increasing pressure for the union to settle as teachers lose salary, L.A. Unified loses money and the thrill wears thinner for families worried about lost learning time and how to balance childcare with work, politics with pragmatism.

A long strike could take a devastating toll on the finances and reputation of an already troubled district, which could make it more difficult for teachers to achieve their goals.

The outlines of a possible deal are painstakingly taking shape behind the scenes, but huge hurdles remain, including — as of Tuesday night — getting the parties to meet face-to-face for the first time since last week.

New elements that could be part of a deal include funding for a type of campus called a "community school," a concept

that both sides could support, said L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who is trying to bring the two sides together. Such schools feature an array of social services, recreation programs, a rich curriculum and meaningful involvement by parents and teachers. An agreement also could include adding green space to campuses, a commitment for new mental health services and some measure — at some level of government — to impose more oversight over charter schools and possibly limit their growth.

"In broad terms, this is about much more than pay," Garcetti said. "This is about the soul of our schools and the way L.A. does or does not build a culture to collectively invest in our future."

The union and the district are close on salary, and the district, in its latest offer, said it would lower class sizes and hire more nurses, librarians and counselors for one year. Beutner said the district can afford no more without risking insolvency. The union responded last week that these steps are not enough.

Garcetti insisted that the differences could be bridged fairly quickly with the parties coming together around common goals, but that resources — and a political nudge — from the city, county and state could be needed to get to an agreement.

Making a deal would make sense because in some ways the strike has perhaps achieved a zenith, with high-fives from celebrities including actors Jaime Camil from "Jane the Virgin," Marlee Matlin, Rachel Bloom and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nearly 80% of Los Angeles County residents said they side with L.A. Unified teachers, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University.

"The strike has strong support across the board," said Brianne Gilbert, associate director of the center. "These results show the labor movement remains a powerful force in Los Angeles, where many families believe union organizing in other fields has improved their quality of life."

The shelf life of this enthusiasm, however, is untested.

"We may see a different response to this question if the teachers remain on the picket lines for an extended period of time, and the realities of the work stoppage hit home," Gilbert said.

At a Tuesday morning news conference, Beutner said that the 31,000 members of United Teachers Los Angeles collectively are losing $10 million a day. The union represents teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. On Monday, he said, the district lost $25 million because only about one-third of students showed up. That's a net loss of $15 million.

In other words, the teachers could become victims of their own strike success. They more or less encouraged students to stay away to put pressure on the school system. But the financial pain could quickly cross over to teachers, as the district has less money with which to make a deal.

Attendance ticked up slightly on Tuesday, but there was no reason to think students would quickly return in large numbers, based on what parents such as Sandelle Kincaid experienced on Monday.

"Very little in the way of educational activity," Kincaid reported from Reed Middle, a highly regarded school in Studio City. "At one point, they tried to show the movie 'Christopher Robin,' but the sound quality was so bad it couldn't be understood. Couldn't read because it was so loud, so the kids just played on their phones for the most part. P.E. was literally just walking around and around the gym — no equipment to play anything."

It looked to her as though less than a third of students were present. "We kept him home today," she said of her son, "and probably will for the rest of the week."

On Tuesday afternoon, school board President Mónica García tried to sound a conciliatory tone, even calling the picketers "heroes."

"Both on the inside and outside of schools, we are all on the kids' side," García said. "We must come together for those students and families who are counting on us to end the strike."

Beutner said it was the teachers union that walked away from talks last week.

"As I've said repeatedly, anytime, anywhere, I'll meet. Los Angeles Unified will meet to try to resolve this," he said in the same news conference.

The superintendent abruptly walked out after three minutes of tense exchanges with reporters, as they shouted

questions at his back.

The union on Tuesday broadened its job action as teachers began a strike at the Accelerated Schools, a local charter network with three adjacent schools south of downtown. The Accelerated teachers were working under a different contract, although still represented by United Teachers Los Angeles.

"This has been already an historic week for educators and for public education in Los Angeles," said union President Alex Caputo-Pearl. He accused leaders of the district and the charter of "looking at teachers as disposable and not as indispensable. We've got to change that."

Teachers also marched on the downtown offices of the California Charter Schools Assn., surrounding the office tower clad in the union's bright red. Caputo-Pearl has called for a moratorium on new charters, which are privately operated, mostly nonunion and compete with district-run schools for students and the funding that follows them. Charters now enroll about 1 in 5 district students.

Myrna Castrejón, the head of the association, said her group opposes a moratorium on charters and that there is room for high-quality new schools of all kinds in neighborhoods where academic achievement remains low.

The union, she said, is unfairly singling out charters when the real problem is lack of funding for traditional and charter schools alike. In the push for more state money, at least, charters are speaking the same language as Beutner and Caputo-Pearl.

"I love the energy and all the passion and the sea of red that wrapped around our office out of concern for children," Castrejón said. "But we should be marching together."

LA Times
In L.A. strike, leading Democrats — including presidential hopefuls — side with teachers
By: Dakota Smith

Los Angeles became the latest flash point for the national standoff between educators and public school districts on Monday, as national Democratic Party leaders aligned themselves with thousands of striking teachers in L.A. and the broader labor movement.

The walkout by teachers, many wearing cardinal-red ponchos and carrying umbrellas as they marched in the rain through downtown L.A., drew support from several high-profile Democrats, including those with an interest in running for president in 2020.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has launched an exploratory committee for the 2020 presidential race, singled out members of United Teachers Los Angeles and Los Angeles Unified School District in a tweet Monday, writing, "I'm with our teachers all the way."

Another possible presidential contender, California's Sen. Kamala Harris, also tweeted her support, saying "Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders."

Monday's strike provided an opportunity for Democrats to reaffirm their support for public school teachers, particularly at a time when the national party is trying to recast itself as a protector of the middle class and when unions are losing power.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that teachers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The ruling has jeopardized the funding and membership of labor groups, who traditionally support Democrats.

At the same time, the L.A. teachers union is facing legal and political challenges to its influence. The number of privately operated charter schools is growing, competing with district-run schools for enrollment. In 2017, pro-charter-school groups spent heavily on candidates they supported for election to the Los Angeles Unified school board.

On Monday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl highlighted California's economic inequities and its Democratic majority among public officeholders, saying that the walkout was happening in a "state as blue as it can be and in a city rife with millionaires."

The strike, expected to affect nearly half a million students, followed similar walkouts by teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other predominately red states.

If strikes in some of those states were viewed as part of an anti-Trump wave, the action by L.A. teachers is more

complex, given the powerful role unions continue to hold in left-leaning California. Also, leaders of the school district agree with the union that more state money is needed at Los Angeles Unified.

"This isn't West Virginia and this isn't Wisconsin," said former L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who has become a staunch supporter of charter schools. "This is a pro-union state. The money is in Sacramento."

The union wants higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff, but is at loggerheads with Los Angeles Unified School District, whose leaders say that if they met all the union's demands, the district would be pushed to insolvency.

The L.A. situation has nuances, but those details weren't apparent in any of the broad calls for support for teachers that rolled in from across the country.

Democratic National Committee Chairman and former U.S. Labor Secretary Tom Perez said Monday that he stands "with the Los Angeles teachers marching for the pay, resources, and working conditions they deserve."

New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez praised the teachers on Twitter for taking a stand, calling them "the unsung heroes of American democracy."

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** who is contemplating a White House run, told reporters at City Hall that he hoped there would be a quick resolution to the strike. He also said the union's goals made for a "righteous cause."

Garcetti's comments were in line with what other Democrats said, but the mayor is in a much more complicated position. He can't antagonize Los Angeles Unified Supt. Austin Beutner, who he is negotiating with to try to end the impasse.

LA Times
Only about a third of LAUSD students attended school on first day of teachers' strike
By: Howard Blume, Sonali Kohli, and Hannah Fry

Only about a third of Los Angeles Unified students showed up to school Monday, the first day of a teachers' strike, with many staying away despite assurance from district officials that all campuses would be in full operation.

The school district said 141,631 students came to campus, based on preliminary data. Officials said 54 of the district's 1,240 schools had not yet provided attendance figures.

The district's total enrollment is about 485,000.

The low attendance numbers capped a day of disruption across the city. But it also helped the skeletal staff that managed many of the schools.

About 31,000 members of the teachers union had agreed to walk out to try to win smaller class sizes, more support staff at schools and better pay.

Thousands of picketing teachers and other union members — many of whom had arrived at their schools before sunrise — joined the mid-morning downtown rally in the chilly rain along with some students and parents. Police estimated the turnout at 20,000. The massive group then marched roughly a mile to school district headquarters on Beaudry Avenue.

Michael La Mont, 48, who teaches third grade at Hooper Elementary, said the march represented the unity of teachers working for better conditions.

"We're marching for the future of public education," he said. "No one's doing this for fun. We're missing our kids. It's raining. We're not going to get paid."

The strike became inevitable when negotiations broke off late Friday afternoon between the L.A. Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles after more than 20 months of bargaining. Supt. Austin Beutner called for an end to the strike during a news conference Monday morning and said the district remains "committed to resolve the contract negotiations as soon as possible."

Gov. Gavin Newsom called on both sides to find a deal.

"This impasse is disrupting the lives of too many kids and their families," Newsom said in a statement. "I strongly urge all parties to go back to the negotiating table and find an immediate path forward that puts kids back into classrooms

and provides parents certainty."

L.A. Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said that enough progress has been made in negotiations to put a deal within reach.

"This is the time to make an agreement," he said. "There is not much that separates the two sides. And there has been movement toward what the teachers have demanded and what the district can afford."

In an effort to avert the strike, district officials sweetened their previous contract offer Friday based on improved funding for all school districts in Newsom's state budget proposalunveiled last week. The district also hopes for a boost from Los Angeles County supervisors, who could vote Tuesday on a plan to give L.A. Unified up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services.

The latest district offer included lower class sizes by about two students in middle schools, a librarian for every secondary school, an extra academic counselor for high schools and a full-time nurse for every elementary school. The district now pays for one day of nursing per week, although many schools use discretionary funds to provide additional days.

The increased staffing, however, would be guaranteed for only one year. District officials said this was necessary because the funds are coming out of a one-time reserve.

"We made our last proposal to UTLA on Friday, which was rejected," Beutner said. "They walked away from bargaining. We would encourage them, we urge them to resume bargaining with us, anytime, anywhere, 24/7."

For UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl, the temporary nature of the increased staffing made the proposal a nonstarter. The two sides are so far behind in negotiations that even if they reached a new three-year deal this week, it would be in effect for only 18 months. The previous contract expired in June 2017.

"Let's be clear, educators don't want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said to a crowd of supporters during a news conference at John Marshall High School in Los Feliz. "We don't want to miss time with our students. We don't want to have less money for the car payment or less money for the school supplies that we always end up buying ourselves."

During the last teachers' strike, about half the district's students went to school. The plan at many schools for this strike is to gather students into large groups in common areas like gyms, auditoriums and multipurpose rooms so they can be supervised by fewer adults. It's not clear how much learning will be going on outside of the real-time civics lessons happening on the sidewalks.

The day did not follow normal routines as volunteers, an estimated 400 substitutes and 2,000 staffers from central and regional offices filled in for 31,000 teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors. At 10 schools, nonteaching employees are taking part in a sympathy strike, which created additional headaches as administrators struggled to manage such tasks as preparing and serving meals.

Some students and parents opted to join teachers on the picket line. Cherie Sanchez, 48, huddled with her son and daughter — in raincoats— outside El Sereno Middle School as the protest reached boisterous levels around them.

Sanchez, an account manager for a software company, said she will take time off work to care for her children at home while the strike continues. They plan to picket with the teachers in the morning and read at home the rest of the day. She said she's advocating for more funds for the education of students with disabilities because her husband is a special ed teacher.

"Public schools are expected to support special needs students but without the resources to do so," she said. "For me, the problem is the privatization of charter schools and the large class sizes. I want smaller class sizes for my kids."

For Laleda Hines, 31, a food service worker, it was awkward to walk into 93rd Street Elementary School with her 11-year-old daughter, Naomi, past teachers who had gathered in front of the campus, she said.

"It's strange," she said. "But I still have to go to work, and she has to go to school."

Hines said she doesn't have anyone to watch Naomi while she's at work, so she leans on the school not just to educate her daughter, but also to watch her during the day. While she supports the teachers and said they deserve more pay and smaller class sizes, she said, she was conflicted by some of their other demands because the school district has said the high costs would lead to insolvency.

"If the district has no money, then there's no job for me," she said.

Some students who had intended to go to school were torn when they saw their teachers picketing outside. Two Los Angeles school police officers who stood inside the doors at Marshall High told a student who approached the exit to watch the teachers that she should remain on campus. If she wanted to leave, one of the officers said, she shouldn't come back. Officers said they wouldn't stop students who left, but students were not supposed to flow in and out of the school.

At Venice High School, senior Salvador Molina and six other students gathered at the front entrance to brainstorm how to get more of their classmates off the campus. They had opted to attend school, but decided to leave when their principal directed them to the gym.

"I'm trying to plan a trip to the museum," Molina said, adding that he could take the Metro to the Natural History Museum, where he could "learn something." A few hours later, the entire group made it to the museum, which has offered free admission to LAUSD students during the strike.

The teachers union continues to push for more hiring to make class sizes smaller and give schools needed support services — such as full-time nurses and librarians at every middle and high school. The union and district are not that far apart on salary. L.A. Unified is offering 6% spread out over the first two years of a three-year deal. The union wants 6.5% all at once, retroactive to a year earlier.

Kevin Alfaro, a social studies teacher at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, said his classes are just too big and students end up being the victims. His four advanced placement government classes have 40 to 41 students each, he said.

"That's a lot for an AP class," Alfaro said. "Class sizes have gone up a lot. Everyone thinks it's the pay increase [at the heart of the strike]. That has a lot to do with it, but class size is the main thing."

Union officials on Monday called on federal and state leaders to increase school funding, and on the Los Angeles Unified School District to spend its reserve as well as new funding identified in the governor's proposed budget.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses ... all over the country have the backs of the educators in L.A.," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. "We need the conditions to ensure that every child ... gets the opportunity he or she or they deserve."

Physical education teacher Lin Joy Hom pulled up to the gate that leads to the Marshall High parking lot before sunrise with "UTLA strong" emblazoned in red letters on her car windows. While class sizes are her No. 1 concern, she said, she also wants every campus to have a school nurse every day. Marshall High doesn't have a full-time nurse, she said.

"I can't tell a kid, 'Don't get hurt on Tuesday because there's no nurse,'" she said. "We need a nurse every single day."

The chilly morning and steady showers did little to dampen the resolve of the group gathered outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts at the start of the school day. Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" blared from a speaker as a picketer thumped on a drum. A passing car honked to the beat. Another motorist pressed on his car horn and held his fist out the window as he passed.

At Wilshire Crest Elementary — a small school of about 150 students in Mid-Wilshire — more than 20 teachers and some parents braved the rain to send a message.

"We have to let people know that we mean business," said special education teacher Lynette Bickham-Tilley. "We're in the trenches and we don't even have supplies all the time. All we want is a fair shot."

Although attendance across L.A. Unified schools was sparse, there were many parents who sent their children to school with little hesitation.

"I think it's important, strike or no strike, that our kids continue their routine," said Stephanie Lee, 45, who waited for the final bell at John Burroughs Middle School as rain pelted the windshield of her minivan.

Lee supports the teachers, but also thought it would be a mistake to shield her 11-year-old daughter, Erin, from a strike, which could itself be educational.

"My daughter told me her teachers have shared information about the strike in class, and I think it's great she's aware," Lee said. "I like that she knows the bigger picture of what's happening."

A social worker who lives in Koreatown, Lee said it helped that the school's administration continuously kept her updated the week before the strike through texts, phone calls and emails.

"I trusted they would have the right plan in place."

In the afternoon, the school day like no other was done.

One by one, the children ran to their parents at at 99th Street Elementary School. As the families walked away together, parents wanted to know if their children's teachers had been at school. They had not.

Joel and Ilcia Martinez asked Rebecca, 7, what she had done in class.

"Did you color?" Ilcia Martinez asked.

The little girl, missing two front teeth and holding a pink umbrella with kitty ears, nodded.

"Did you read?"

Rebecca nodded again.

"We watched a movie too," she said.

Also covered by: The Hill, Daily Mail

LA Daily News
LAUSD teachers strike, Day 2: Beutner says district lost $25 million in attendance, but saved $10 million in wages

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers headed back to rain-dampened picket lines Tuesday as the district's chief made a plea for a renewed effort to seek funding from the state to help meet teachers' demands on the second day of the giant school system's first walkout in 30 years.

It was a day when the collective call for smaller class sizes, a salary bump, more nurses and counselors at local campuses and the regulation of charter schools continued to echo from megaphones and chants from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro.

Picketing LA Unified teachers were joined by their counterparts at The Accelerated Schools charter school in South Los Angeles, who also went on strike Tuesday, calling for increased teachers' salaries and health benefits in order to bolster teacher rentention. Those teachers are represented by the same union that represents teachers in the LAUSD. The walkout was said to be the first ever in California by charter-school teachers.

Day 2 — like Day 1 — was also marked by half-full classrooms and campuses, leaving administrators, students and substitute teachers trying to bring some sense of normalcy to the situation. All 1,240 elementary, middle and high schools were open Monday and again Tuesday, thanks in part to substitute teachers and credentialed school staffers, Beutner said. Bus service was operating normally, and meals were being served to students as usual.

But the emptiness did not go unnoticed.

"Our students are best served with an educator in every classroom," said L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner in a morning news conference, where he was flanked by School Board President Monica Garcia. "We need our educators back in our classrooms, helping to inspire our students."

Educators back in classrooms means students back in classrooms. And that means dollars for a district that needs them.

Beutner announced that 159,142 students attended school Tuesday, about 17,000 more than went to school on Monday (141,631). The district has about 500,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and typically about 450,000 would attend school on a rainy day, Beutner said. Ninety percent of the district's funding comes from the state. And because the district receives funding based on student attendance, Beutner said the district lost about $25 million, and saved $10 million because of unpaid wages to striking teachers and staff who walked the picket lines on the first day.

Beutner on Tuesday lamented the state's funding model, which allocates $68 per pupil to the district for each day they attend. But, he said, it would take a concerted effort between a truly unified school district — union and district together — to lobby the state for a better funding model that could help ease the district's financial woes.

"Let's get to Sacramento and let's have the conversation in the right place," he said.

After two years of contentious bargaining, Beutner appeared to be trying to strike a conciliatory tone, saying he wished he and the district could meet teachers' demands.

But the "painful truth" is that the district did not have enough money — and that state and local regulators have confirmed the district's precarious financial position.

District and union negotiators have found little common ground, prompting thousands of teachers to make good on a threat to strike on Monday — the first district walkout since 1989. On Day 1, they formed early picket lines outside schools across the vast district and converged in downtown Los Angeles, where they marched from LA City Hall to LA Unified headquarters.

Despite urging from elected leaders such as LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Gov. Gavin Newsom to hash out a deal, the district and United Teachers Los Angeles remain locked in an impasse over the union's demands for a 6.5 percent raise, smaller class sizes, more counseling and nursing resources at local campuses and regulation of charter schools. And UTLA President Alex Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

Kamala Harris✓@KamalaHarris

Los Angeles teachers work day in and day out to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. I'm standing in solidarity with them as they strike for improved student conditions, such as smaller class sizes and more counselors and librarians. https://twitter.com/NPR/status/1084622016836030464 …

Teachers reiterated those demands Tuesday morning, as union leaders and supporters gathered at The Accelerated Schools, a charter network in Los Angeles, where its staffers began the first-ever strike by charter teachers in California, calling for increased pay and health benefits to reduce the high teacher turnover rate at the school.

"We are going to win this fight for basic respect for educators," said Caputo-Pearl. "Take pride in being an educator. Take pride in the organizing … We are doing this for your rights right now."

Beutner noted that no negotiations were planned for Tuesday, but added the door is open, despite talks shutting down on Friday.

That's when the district increased its contract offer after Newsom unveiled his state budget proposal, which includes more money for school districts across the state. The offer also includes, among other things, reducing class sizes in middle schools, a full-time nurse at every elementary school and another academic counselor at high schools. The increased staffing would only be for one year, as the district said the money to pay for the extra employees would come out of a one-time reserve, according to reports.

Garcetti said Monday he was hopeful for a deal to be struck soon, but reiterated the need for both sides to ease up on the rhetoric. There was some movement outside the district on Tuesday after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide the district with up to $10 million for nursing and mental health services — saying it would be enough to fund a nurse at every LAUSD elementary school. That funding was included in Beutner's most recent contract offer to the union last week.

The LAUSD has offered teachers a 6 percent raise spread over the first two years of a three-year contract, while UTLA – skeptical of claims that the district's $1.8 billion reserve cannot accommodate teachers' demands — wants a 6.5 percent raise that would take effect all at once and a year sooner. The union claims the district's proposed salary hike would be contingent on benefit cuts for future union members. Beyond the numbers, the union's Caputo-Pearl has couched the strike in the context of a bigger-picture struggle for "the soul of public education."

In the meantime, campuses from the San Fernando Valley to the Harbor area were anything but normal Tuesday.

When asked about the district's reported loss in income because of student absences, Sean Mullen, a UTLA school representative at President Avenue Elementary School in Harbor City, said the district has to "feel the financial impact" of the teachers' walkout.

At San Fernando High School, English teacher Kim Wyneken, reitereated concern over class size: "We just can't manage 50 kids," she said, adding that even as she was acting for the good of teachers she felt anxious about the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else."

Inside, administrators, many of whom parachuted in to local schools to fill vacant teacher spots, tried to impose some sense of normalcy to their thinly attended schools.

Joe Nardulli, principal at Vista Middle School in Panorama City, was doing the best he could on Day 2.

At at school of 1,174 students, the 476 students who showed up on Tuesday was a bump up from Monday's 341, but Nardulli was clearly melancholy about what was happening.

"It's a difficult situation," he said. "We care about our teachers and we support all that they do. We're really hoping for a quick resolution … in the best interest of our students and the community."

And in South L.A., charter school teachers at The Accelerated Schools, were on the picket line lamenting their own situation: "We have to come here every single day, not knowing if they're going to fire us just because they don't like us," said Alex Collie-Hartmann, a music teacher for Wallis Annenberg High School.

As Day 2 came to an end, questions remained about whether students will be penalized for missing school.

In a letter to parents, the district said while students are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken, principals will "work with" students and their families regarding attendance.

"We understand that many students were unable to attend school and are concerned about their report cards or transcripts. Be assured that LosAngeles Unified is not going to put our students in the middle of disputes between adults," the letter from Deputy Superintendent Vivian Ekchian reads.

Ekchian also said absences will not impact graduation.

Beutner said despite the impasse, life had to move forward on local campuses.

Beutner spoke about students, like those at Telfair Elementary School in Pacoima — where about 20 percent are homeless — who came to school.

"They came for shelter from the rain. They came for a warm meal and a secure, welcoming environment and yes, they came to learn," he said.

While some students at schools are filling their days with watching movies, Beutner said staff are doing the best they can.

"I'm not going to shut schools," he said. "Shutting schools leaves those children out in the rain."

Sarah Favot✓@sarahfavot

At a @LASchools morning press briefing, @AustinLASchools says $15 million was lost by the district yesterday: $25 million due to students who were absent from school and the district saved $10M by not paying teachers.

United Teachers Los Angeles@UTLAnow

Check out this #PublicEdDanceChallenge. Students from Venice are challenging all of Los Angeles to learn these steps and show up on picket lines at your local neighborhood school. #WeAreLA #LAUSDStrike #UTLAStrong

Ariella Plachta@AriPlachta

Day 2 of the teachers strike at San Fernando High School and no rain. This morning #LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner called on teachers to picket in Sacramento for more state funding

English teacher Kim Wyneken says she's feeling anxious given the "indefinite aspect" of this strike. "We have bills & mortgages like everyone else. When Beutner talks to the media instead of to us, it's disheartening. He sounds so reasonable...we just can't manage 50 kids." pic.twitter.com/TrAfxuVsmq

As the second largest school district in the nation, the LAUSD covers an area totaling 710 square miles and serves more than 694,000 students at 1,322 schools, although 216 schools are independent charter schools, most of which are staffed with non-union teachers who would not be affected by the strike. The district says about 500,000 students and 1,100 schools are impacted by the walkout.

The district hired 400 substitutes, and 2,000 administrators with teaching credentials have been reassigned.

UTLA represents more than 31,000 teachers.

The district has set up an information hotline for parents at (213) 443-1300.

Also covered by: KNX 1070

Reuters
Los Angeles mayor working to restart stalled talks in teachers strike: union president

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** is working to bring negotiators for 30,000 striking teachers and the nation's second-largest school district back to the bargaining table for the first time since talks collapsed last week, the head of the teachers union said on Tuesday.

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video posted by the union on Twitter that he expected an announcement about efforts to restart stalled labor negotiations on Wednesday, as the strike stretches into a third day.

The teachers, who rejected the latest contract offer from the Los Angeles Unified School District on Friday, are demanding higher pay, smaller classes and more support staff.

La Opinion
Teachers enter second day of protests in the rain

The stoppage of teachers enters its second day of protests without a possible end is still glimpsed. More than 30,000 professors from the Los Angeles district (LAUSD), the second largest in the country, began an indefinite strike since yesterday to demand a salary increase, reduction in the number of students per class and investment in equipment and infrastructure in the educational sites , among other things. According to the district, half a million students and 1,100 schools have been affected by the cessation of activities by Los Angeles teachers.

The rain was not an impediment for teachers, parents and students to take to the streets with posters, banners and umbrellas to make their voices heard by the local government. Aerial images show thousands of people who participated in the march despite the rainfall and low temperatures.

ABC News✓@ABC

Aerial footage shows massive teacher strike as tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers walk out in what the union president says is a "fight for the soul of public education." https://abcn.ws/2D79Afa

LAUSD has asked the representatives of the UTLA teacher union to continue the negotiations. However, the teacher stoppage began after 21 months of negotiations without reaching an agreement between the parties .

More than half a million families who have been affected by the strike have turned to other institutions in the city to keep their children occupied. The LAUSD assured that all educational institutions will be open during the days of unemployment , however, thousands of students have been absent from the school classrooms.

During the days of the strike, the Los Angeles Metro and LADASH will provide a free service "to LA Unified School District students between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. during school days," said the Mayor of Los Angeles. Angels , **Eric Garcetti** . In addition, 32 recreation centers and libraries will extend their opening hours and services for students who are affected by unemployment.

The last stoppage of teachers in Los Angeles had been presented in 1989, which lasted nine days.

Also covered by: Telemundo

Reuters
Los Angeles teachers strike for second day as mayor seeks to restart talks
By: Steve Gorman and Alex Dobuzinskis

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Some 30,000 Los Angeles teachers on strike for higher pay, smaller classes and more staff walked picket lines in the rain for a second day on Tuesday as Mayor **Eric Garcetti** embraced their cause while trying to nudge the two sides back to the bargaining table.

Negotiators for the Los Angeles Unified School District and the United Teachers Los Angeles have not met since union leaders rejected the LAUSD's latest contract offer on Friday night, calling the proposal an "insult."

Asked on Tuesday afternoon whether the two parties had any intention of resuming labor talks, an LAUSD spokeswoman said: "Nothing is scheduled at this time."

But hours later, union president Alex Caputo-Pearl said in a video statement posted online that Garcetti "has been working with us and working on the district side" to reinitiate negotiations.

"Things are developing in a good way there, and we'll have more to report to you tomorrow on that," Caputo-Pearl said.

There was no immediate word in response from either the mayor's office or LAUSD, which ranks as the second largest public school district in the United States, encompassing some 1,200 campuses.

The walkout, with teachers garbed mostly in red braving two days of rainy weather to stage mass rallies downtown, has shattered 30 years of labor peace by Los Angeles teachers but has not completely idled schools.

The district has enlisted administrators and substitute teachers to keep classes open on a limited basis through the strike, although LAUSD reported only about a third of its 492,000 public school students showed up on the first day of the walkout. It said attendance was up 13 percent on Tuesday.

About 148,000 additional students are enrolled in LAUSD's independently managed charter schools and have been unaffected for the most part by this week's labor strife.

On Tuesday, however, a group of no more than four dozen unionized teachers at three LAUSD charter schools operated by a company called The Accelerated Schools walked off the job in a separate dispute they said was focused on job security.

It marked only the second charter school strike in the nation and the first in California, said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers parent union .

The Los Angeles walkout followed a wave of teachers' strikes across the United States over pay and school funding, including in West Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Arizona. Denver teachers could vote to strike by Saturday if no deal on a new contract is reached by then.

SYMPATHY FOR TEACHERS

Public sympathy appeared strongly aligned with the Los Angeles teachers' union, with more than three-quarters of those polled by Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles saying they supported the teachers.

The survey, released on Tuesday, showed strike support running at 60 percent or more across all demographic groups. Among parents with children at home, support topped 82 percent, a finding reflected in the presence of many parents seen walking picket lines with the teachers, despite the inconvenience the strike posed for working families.

Aside from the education disruption, the strike could have implications for the political aspirations of the mayor, who is considered a likely contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Garcetti expressed support for the teachers, telling Reuters at Tuesday's rally that the strike "is an important and righteous fight about the soul of our schools. Every parent, every kid deserves a decent-sized classroom where teachers aren't overwhelmed by the numbers."

The mayor previously avoided taking sides in the dispute, over which he has little practical sway because the LAUSD is governed by an independently elected school board that appoints its superintendent.

The two sides remained at loggerheads on how much the district needs to invest in hiring staff, including nurses, librarians and other support staff.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said the district had offered staff increases that would cost $130 million a year - more than county officials have said is available - while the union's demands would cost $800 million.

Beutner offered to accompany teachers in lobbying state lawmakers to increase education funding. "Join me on the bus," he said.

The union wants a 6.5 percent pay raise. LAUSD teacher pay currently averages $75,000, according to state figures. The district has offered a 6 percent hike with back pay.

NBC News
'Escalate, escalate, escalate': L.A. teachers' strike to head into its second day Tuesday
By: Daniella Silva and Alex Johnson

A strike by tens of thousands of Los Angeles teachers will continue for a second day on Tuesday as district officials called in substitute teachers, certified administrators and other staffers in their effort to keep the nation's second-largest district open.

With no new negotiations scheduled Monday night, a second day of pickets and a mass rally were scheduled for Tuesday, said the United Teachers Los Angeles union, or UTLA.

"So here we are on a rainy day in the richest country in the world, in the richest state in the country, in a state as blue as it can be, in a city rife with millionaires, where teachers have to go on strike to get the basics for our students," Alex Caputo-Pearl, the union's president, said Monday at a rally outside John Marshall High School.

Braving rain on Monday, thousands of teachers carrying umbrellas and signs saying "on strike for our students" stood in picket lines Monday demanding smaller class sizes; more nurses, counselors and librarians; higher wages for educators; and what they characterize as more accountability for charter schools.

Picket lines appeared at 900 schools across the city after negotiations collapsed last week. Police estimated that 20,000 teachers and their supporters rallied outside City Hall before marching to Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters.

"It's time to double down and make sure Day 2 is even better," Caputo-Pearl said at a gathering of teachers on Monday night.

He gave preliminary organizing plans through at least Thursday, saying, "We've got to escalate, escalate, escalate."

The school district said it had called in hundreds of substitute teachers, administrators and other certified staffers to keep classes open.

Superintendent Austin Beutner said attendance was good at some schools and "not so good" at others. In a statement, the school district said about 141,000 students showed up on Monday, well below half, but that 54 schools hadn't reported attendance. Using another metric, it said school bus ridership was about 40 percent of normal.

The union says it is taking a stand against what it calls the privatization of public education through charter schools. The number of charter schools has shot up in California from 809 in 2009 to 1,323 this year. Charters now educate about 10 percent of the state's public school students, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

California ranks 41st in the nation in per-pupil spending, and even though the state has a surplus of nearly $9 billion and L.A. Unified has $1.86 billion in reserves, the average high school class size in the district has grown to 42 students.

"Educators do not want to strike," Caputo-Pearl said as he was joined by other educators, students and representatives from teachers' unions. But they felt they had to to fight for the proposals they were demanding for their students, he said.

"California should be leading, not languishing," he said.

The school district has defended its bargaining position.

"We all want lower class size. We all want more nurses and counselors and librarians in our schools," Beutner told NBC News. "It's an issue of how much we actually have to pay all those salaries."

The strike is the latest in a string of teacher walkouts and demonstrations since last year, which includedactions in Arizona, North Carolina, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington state, Oklahoma and Kentucky.

"The eyes of the nation are watching, and educators and nurses and public employees all throughout the country have the backs of the educators and the students and the parents in L.A.," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the second-largest teacher's labor union in the United States.

In a statement Sunday, the union said that even with $1.86 billion in reserves, the school district "says it does not have the money to improve our schools to include lower class sizes, accountability for charter schools and a real reinvestment in school safety, vital staffing and educational programs."

"Since 2008, the cost of living in L.A. has increased 27 percent yet the district offers stagnant wages and healthcare," the statement said.

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti**, who has no authority over the school district, said he was "immensely proud" of the teachers for "standing up for what I believe is a righteous cause." He said he had been talking to both the district and the union, and he called on the two sides to get back to the negotiating table.

Schools are open during the strike, and student absences blamed on the strike aren't considered excused, the school district said Monday. A rule marking a student as truant if he or she racks up three unexcused absences still applies, it said.

"One of the things that we're aware of is that part of our funding formula is around the average daily attendance," Frances Gipson, the district's chief academic officer, said in an interview.

"When students are not here, that can be an unexcused absence depending whether its a health issue or et cetera, so this could exacerbate the funding crisis as we think about the funding that does come to the district," she said.

Garcetti said the city was also offering extended hours and free lunch at 37 recreation centers during the first day of the strike. School meals will be served throughout the strike, the district said in a statement Sunday, while early education centers will be open only to special-needs students and preschools will be closed.

LA Times
With FBI probe looming, L.A. City Council members revive plan to limit developer donations
By: Dave Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes

Two years ago, Los Angeles City Council members called for a ban on political donations from real estate developers seeking city approval for their projects, saying they wanted to erase the perception that money is the reason big buildings are getting the green light.

That plan languished at City Hall and was tabled by the Ethics Commission before it officially expired.

Now, with FBI agents conducting a corruption investigation into City Hall, council members have revived the idea.

"Now more than ever, trust is the fundamental pillar, and we need to do something to gain back that trust," Councilman David Ryu, who spearheaded the proposal, said this week.

This time, council members are looking at going even further, by restricting donations made by developers to charitable groups at the request of city politicians. That idea was prompted by a report last year in The Times on donations to Bishop Mora Salesian High School, said Ryu spokesman Estevan Montemayor.

The Times reported that Councilman Jose Huizar personally asked companies that do business at City Hall to donate to the private school, where his wife was working as a professional fundraiser, and assigned his staff to help with the effort.

Real estate developers with projects in Huizar's district have received subpoenas instructing them to turn over any records of contributions to Salesian, as well as to political committees tied to the councilman.

The renewed push for restrictions on political giving comes days after new revelations about the FBI investigation, which became public in November when agents raided Huizar's home and offices.

"Obviously it's happening now because the feds are circling City Hall," said Damien Goodmon, a South Los Angeles activist who has long argued that big market-rate residential projects in L.A. force low-income residents out of their neighborhoods. "It's unfortunate that it takes an FBI investigation for these things to talked about."

News emerged Saturday that a federal warrant sought evidence of possible crimes — including extortion, bribery and money laundering — involving more than a dozen people, including Huizar, Councilman Curren Price and current and former aides to Huizar, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and Council President Herb Wesson. Also named were executives of Chinese firms involved in downtown development.

Several council members said the new push was not prompted by the FBI probe or the latest revelations. Councilman Paul Krekorian, who also signed on to the proposal last time, said he did not see the idea as being related to the investigation. Whatever is being examined by FBI agents must involve violations of existing laws, he said.

The proposal will be an important step in reassuring the public that real estate decisions at City Hall are "being made solely on the merits of the project," said Krekorian, who represents part of the San Fernando Valley.

Councilman Paul Koretz, who represents part of the Westside, said he too had supported the proposal long before the federal investigation became public. But he argued that the probe should make it "easier for us to finally push this through."

The resurrection of Ryu's proposal was welcomed by Studio City resident Lisa Sarkin, who spent nine years on her neighborhood council.

"The developers have way, way, way too much sway with the council members," she said. "I mean, even neighborhood council members have a hard time seeing their council members. But you go to a council meeting and there are developers that go into the backroom to talk to them, and there's no accounting for any of it."

Some in the business community argue that council members are focusing on the wrong issue. Real estate developer Mott Smith, principal with Civic Enterprise Development, said too many planning decisions are controlled by council members, which means that real estate companies need to woo politicians to get projects approved.

The system "basically makes almost everything impossible to achieve without some kind of influence being applied," Smith said.

When the idea of restricting developer donations first arose two years ago, city leaders were facing a battle over Measure S, which would have cracked down on real estate projects that cannot be approved without changing city planning rules.

Goodmon, deputy campaign manager for the Measure S campaign, said he believes council members first unveiled the proposed ban to show that they were doing something about developer influence in the run-up to the election. Once the campaign was over and the measure had been defeated, council members let the proposal wither, he said.

The Ethics Commission, which recommends changes to campaign finance law, tabled Ryu's plan last year.

Former Ethics Commission President Jessica Levinson, who was not on the panel when that decision was made, said she has no doubt that council members are revisiting Ryu's proposal because of the fallout from the FBI probe. But she argued that it is the wrong strategy — both for practical reasons and because it would probably run afoul of the 1st Amendment.

"The Supreme Court is really suspicious about singling out certain people and saying, 'You don't get to participate in the political process by making contributions,' " said Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School.

Levinson said the city will probably face difficulty deciding how exactly it wants to define a real estate developer. And she predicted that if the measures passes, developers will simply funnel money into independent committees that back candidates at City Hall, which would not be governed by the new restrictions.

This time, Ryu and other council members are asking the city attorney to draft ordinances, rather than giving that direction to the Ethics Commission.

Under the proposal, real estate developers would be barred from giving to city candidates and officeholders once they have turned in an application that requires city approval or other action, provided that the request involves building or adding more than 4,000 square feet of floor area for residential projects or 15,000 square feet for commercial projects.

The donation ban would last until a year after a final decision is made on the application, the proposal said. The restrictions would apply to the owner of the property being developed, including principals of any legal entity that owns the property.

Koretz, the Westside councilman, said that this time, he believes the proposal is "very likely to pass."

"I think people didn't take it seriously when we introduced it a couple years ago," he said.

LA Daily News
Effort to introduce limits on donations from some developers making a comeback at LA City Hall

By: Liz Chou

A proposal to restrict political campaign donations from real estate developers has gotten little traction over the past two years at City Hall, but it is getting a second chance amid an FBI investigation into possible corruption related to the approvals of downtown Los Angeles development projects.

Six Los Angeles City Council members introduced a motion Tuesday calling for a ban on contributions from developers seeking approval on certain projects in the city of Los Angeles. It was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson.

A similar proposal to ban developer contributions to politicians was spearheaded by one of the council members, David Ryu, two years ago, but recently expired without any actions taken on the matter.

The proposal had been tabled after several attempts by Ryu's office to get the issue taken up by the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission.

This time around the motion also calls for adding "behested payments," which are contributions by supporters of a campaign to a politician's pet causes, to the restricted activities. It also calls for similar restrictions to be applied to builders seeking approvals from the Los Angeles Unified School District's board.

Ryu said his efforts to seek various "campaign finance reforms," such as the developer contributions ban, was something that he has been promising since he ran for office.

"Democracy dies when people lose faith in their elected officials," he said in a statement. "That is the risk we face, the longer we go without addressing this problem as systemic and worthy of reform."

Ryu was joined by council members Paul Krekorian, Paul Koretz, Joe Buscaino, Nury Martinez and Mike Bonin in presenting the latest motion.

The motion comes as an ongoing FBI investigation is heightening the mistrust that has long brewed around elected officials at City Hall and their activities around major development projects in the city.

Over the past week, the Los Angeles Times reported that two City Council members, Jose Huizar and Curren Price, former and current city staffers, a city commissioner appointed by Mayor **Eric Garcetti,** and several business people were named in a search warrant served on the Internet company Google, in which FBI investigators sought evidence of possible money laundering, extortion, bribery and other crimes.

The warrant does not indicate that any of the people named are guilty of, or have been arrested or charged with any crimes being looked at in the investigation.

FBI investigators also took over Huizar's council office and home during searches last November.

The councilman was subsequently stripped of his council committee assignments, including as chair of the powerful Planning and Land Use Management Committee that oversees development projects.

LAist
LA Council Members Want To Restrict Contributions From Big Developers
By: Sandra Oshiro

Los Angeles residents may wonder why this isn't already prohibited, but a handful of council members on Tuesday proposed a ban on campaign contributions from real estate developers of significant projects.

Developers covered by the proposed restrictions include those whose projects would add or construct more than 4,000 square feet of residential floor area or 15,000 square feet of commercial space.

The council members also want to look for ways to restrict developers from making contributions to favored causes supported by officials, donations known as "behested payments."

In August 2017, KPCC investigated millions of dollars in behested payments raised by Mayor **Eric Garcetti** from individuals, businesses and foundations. In recent years, some of the contributors won large contracts and crucial city approvals for their projects.

Garcetti at the time had set a city record in using the little-known and minimally regulated behested payments to largely benefit the Mayor's Fund of Los Angeles, a charity he helped start after his election in 2013.

Councilman David Ryu authored the new motion calling for the restrictions on developers' campaign contributions and behested payments, a move backed by council members Paul Koretz, Mike Bonin, Paul Krekorian, Nury Martinez and Joe Buscaino and seconded by Council President Herb Wesson. The motion seeks to ban contributions from certain developers from the time of their planning applications until 12 months after they are finally resolved.

This motion is the second of its kind. A previous motion from early 2017 expired over the recent council recess. Ryu's office hopes the latest motion, which for the first time calls for steps banning behested payments from developers, will move more quickly.

"What it does is it limits the perception that there is this pay-to-play style of politics at City Hall," said Estevan Montemayor, Ryu's deputy chief of staff. Montemayor said Ryu has pushed for the reform measure since he was elected, but it ran into delays.

"This is our first opportunity to reintroduce the idea," Montemayor said.

The proposal calls on the chief legislative analyst and L.A. Ethics Commission staff to report back on ways the city could restrict behested payments.

The council proposal comes the same week that a Federal Bureau of Investigation search warrant emerged showing the agency's ongoing corruption probe reaches deep into city departments and City Hall.

Initial details about the investigation suggested a focus on Councilman Jose Huizar, whose Boyle Heights home and City Hall office were searched by FBI agents in November. But the search warrant revealed the federal investigation extends to other elected officials and their staff.

Federal agents also may be investigating the role of Chinese investment in the development of high-profile projects, particularly in downtown Los Angeles.

The Ryu motion will first be reviewed by the council's Rules Committee and requires approval by the full council before it could take effect.

LA Taco
'I'm not responsible 100% for everybody' ~ Mayor Garcetti responds to questions about expansive FBI probe
By: Philip Iglauer

Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** said he is "not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody" in City Hall after revelations over the weekend that the FBI probe into City Councilman Jose Huizar is in fact a part of a much wider investigation of more than a dozen City Hall insiders, including current and former members of Garcetti's administration.

"I am not responsible 100 percent for the actions of everybody in this building, the elected officials and stuff. But I do take my responsibility seriously," the mayor said.

"I do expect every city employee to participate fully and cooperate fully with the FBI," Garcetti said in response to a reporter's question at City Hall on Monday.

"We will certainly get to the bottom of it inside this building. It is my expectation the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI should, and I have zero tolerance, absolute zero tolerance of any malfeasance or anything wrong that happened here."

The warrant was filed in federal court in November and revealed in a tweet by a George Washington University researcher on Saturday. The names listed in the warrant make up a veritable who's-who of the City Hall power brokers.

In addition to naming Huizar and several of his council aides and family members, the warrant revealed the FBI is looking into Councilman Curren Price; Deron Williams, chief of staff to Council President Herb Wesson; Raymond Chan, who was Garcetti's deputy mayor of economic development until he retired in 2017; and Joel Jacinto, whom Garcetti appointed to a full-time, paid position on the Board of Public Works.

The search warrant does not point to evidence of criminal activity by any of the people named in the document and no one has been arrested or charged in connection with the investigation. And it should be noted that the warrant does not indicate the FBI probe reaches all of the way to the mayor himself.

"As a son of a prosecutor who devoted his life and a led the first division that actually went after public officials from police officers to elected officials, I am trained to not only support but to also assist and make sure we get to the bottom and to the truth in anything," he said.

Garcetti's father, Gil Garcetti, was L.A. County district attorney from 1992 to 2000.

What remains to be seen is what more could come out of the federal investigation, as Garcetti said himself on Monday. "We don't know from the subpoena is it for emails, for witnesses, or is someone a target," he said. "I learned a long time ago. Don't conjecture. Let people do their work and support it."

Southern California News Group
As the City of Angels begins to look like City of Capone
By: Susan Shelley

Chicago has a reputation for a history of political corruption and official lawlessness dating back at least as far as Prohibition.

In one vintage joke, a thirsty visitor to the city flags down a cab driver. "Do you know where I can get a drink?" he asks. "You see that church?" says the cab driver, pointing to an ornate building. "That church?" the visitor repeats. "Yeah," says the cab driver, "That's the only place in town where you can't get a drink."

Despite that city's tradition of indifference to corruption, there are occasions when the local pols go off in handcuffs. Longtime Alderman (Chicago-speak for councilman) Edward Burke has recently been charged with one count of attempted extortion. Federal prosecutors say he tried to shake down the owner of a Burger King franchise who needed city permits for remodeling work.

Burke is one of the city's most powerful politicians, and in a particularly Chicago-esque touch, he's married to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke, who was sworn in to her second 10-year term on the day the FBI carried out a raid on her husband's City Hall office. The 37-page federal criminal complaint for corruption, which Burke denies, came five weeks later.

Three weeks before the raid in Chicago's City Hall, the FBI raided the Los Angeles City Hall office of Councilman Jose Huizar. There has been no indictment yet in that case.

But hints of what the agents may have been seeking can be found in a federal search warrant, now publicly available, that was served on Google last year. The FBI wanted electronic records from Gmail and other accounts belonging to Raymond Chan, the former head of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety under Mayor **Eric Garcetti**. Chan, who also served as deputy mayor for economic development, retired from the city in 2017.

The search warrant names Chan and Huizar, L.A. City Councilmember Curren Price and other City Hall officials, including the chief of staff to City Council President Herb Wesson and a Garcetti appointee to the Board of Public Works.

What was the FBI searching for? The warrant seeks electronic information "that constitutes evidence, contraband, fruits, or instrumentalities of violations" of federal laws prohibiting conspiracy, "bribery and kickbacks concerning federal funds," extortion, money laundering, structuring financial transactions to evade a reporting requirement and "deprivation of honest services."

The warrant also seeks "all records relating to development projects in and around Los Angeles that relate to foreign investors" and all records relating to projects in which Huizar and the others "assisted in acquiring permits, licenses or other official city processes."

The FBI may find it more challenging to prosecute politicians in Los Angeles than in Chicago because, in the words of longtime editor and columnist Michael Kinsley, "the scandal is what's legal."

Last February, the L.A. County District Attorney charged the developer of the controversial Sea Breeze apartment project in the Harbor Gateway neighborhood with making illegal campaign contributions to local politicians while trying to get a zoning change for an industrial property. Prosecutors said Samuel Leung used "straw donors" to funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars to local politicians. Mayor Garcetti and the City Council approved the zoning change so the 352-unit residential project could be built on the former manufacturing site.

In 2013, Leung-linked donors gave $60,000 to a committee seeking to elect Garcetti as mayor. The "Committee for a Safer Los Angeles" was an entity called an "independent expenditure committee." Garcetti's adviser told the L.A. Times the now-mayor was "barely aware" of it and had "nothing" to do with it.

The direct shakedown of donors, fully legal, can be seen in the public disclosures of "behested payments," unlimited contributions that are made at the "behest" of an officeholder. Since 2010, Garcetti has "behested" over $41 million

from donors, many of them companies with business before the city. Disney has three times written checks for $1 million to the "Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles," and last June, the Los Angeles Clippers gave $3 million to the "Los Angeles Parks Foundation" at Garcetti's request.

Between 2014 and 2017, Curren Price "behested" over $245,000 for the "Coalition for Responsible Community Development," which has a stated mission to "improve local planning."

Good luck to the feds chasing corruption in California. If Al Capone had operated in this state, he'd have a building named after him.

LA Times
Reform of controversial pension program approved by L.A. City Council
By: Jack Dolan

The Los Angeles City Council voted Tuesday to reform a controversial retirement program that allowed hundreds of veteran police and firefighters to take extended leaves from work at essentially twice their usual pay.

The Deferred Retirement Option Plan pays city cops and firefighters their salaries and early pension payments for the last five years of their careers. Under the new measure — which will apply only to new participants and not those already in the program — pension checks will be withheld from those who miss significant time due to injury or illness in any given month. Those employees will still receive their full salary for the time off.

The change of policy comes in response to a Los Angeles Times investigative series that found nearly half of the cops and firefighters who had joined the program — which has paid out more than $1.7 billion in early extra pension checks since its inception in 2002 — have subsequently taken injury leaves, typically for bad backs, sore knees and other conditions that afflict aging bodies regardless of profession.

The average absence was about 10 months, The Times found, but hundreds of police and firefighters took more than a year off while in the program.

Among them was a former firefighter who took almost a year off for a hurt knee after entering DROP but, less than two months after the injury, crossed the finish line of a half-marathon.

A married couple — a police captain and a detective — joined DROP before filing claims for carpal tunnel syndrome and other cumulative ailments and took about two years off. They collected nearly $2 million while in the program and spent their time off starting a family business and recovering at their condo in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

A fire captain who was paid more than $1.5 million while in DROP claimed injuries to 13 body parts — from his neck to his ankles — and took more than a year and a half off to recover. During that time, he posted photos on Facebook of a trip to the Galapagos to dive with hammerhead sharks.

Under the new policy, pension payments will be suspended for new DROP participants who do not work at least 112 hours on active duty in any given month — that's about two weeks for a firefighter and nearly three weeks for a police officer. The rule would be waived for anyone who sustains an injury in the line of duty that puts them in the hospital for three days or longer.

The change, which was negotiated between the mayor's office and leaders of the politically powerful police and firefighters unions, does not affect more than a thousand people currently in DROP — it applies only to new members beginning next month. Any participant who has pension checks withheld as a result of the new policy will be allowed to remain in DROP longer to make up for the loss, up to 30 extra months.

Though the city has moved to combat chronic, long-term absenteeism in DROP — a serious problem for a program that was pitched to voters as a no-cost way to keep veteran cops and firefighters on the job a few years longer — the broader question of whether the program makes financial sense remains open.

Former Mayor Richard Riordan, who championed the creation of the program in the early 2000s at the request of the police union, has since said it was a mistake. Other cities that experimented with their own versions of DROP, including San Diego and San Francisco, quickly abandoned them, citing the expense. Los Angeles County officials considered creating a DROP a few years ago but decided the idea was flawed for several reasons, including the likely expense.

For years, actuaries hired by the city of Los Angeles said they did not have enough data to determine if the DROP program was really "cost-neutral" as voters had been promised.

But the last two studies, one completed in 2014 and the other late last year, determined that DROP was not, and has

never been, cost-neutral.

In 2016, Mayor **Eric Garcetti** and leaders of the City Council ignored a confidential reportfrom then-City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana urging them to eliminate, or drastically amend, the program.

The original rationale for creating DROP nearly two decades ago, a threatened mass departure of senior Los Angeles Police Department officers following the Rampart scandal, which exposed widespread corruption within the department, was no longer a concern, Santana said.

And there had never been a reason to include firefighters in the program, because the city has no problem retaining them, Santana added. On the rare occasions when the city has job openings for firefighters, the department gets far more applicants than it can possibly hire.

Even so, there has been little appetite among city leaders — including Garcetti and key City Council members who get financial support from the politically powerful police and firefighter unions — to eliminate the program.

Last month, members of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council issued a letter opposing a policy change that merely addressed questionable injury leaves. The group argued the program should be eliminated or more drastically reformed, "because it fails to address the underlying issues with DROP concerning overwhelming cost to taxpayers, as well as waste, fraud, and abuse for current participants."

"It's frustrating not to see more significant reform of this program when there are so many other things to spend the money on," said Becky Newman, vice president of the Eagle Rock group.

On Tuesday afternoon, Garcetti spokesman Alex Comisar emailed The Times to say the mayor supports the reform, but he still sees a need for the unusual pension program. "The mayor continues to believe that DROP is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention, and maintaining stability at our police and fire departments," Comisar wrote.

FiveThirtyEight
How 17 Long-Shot Presidential Contenders Could Build A Winning Coalition
By: Nate Silver

It might seem obvious that having a wide-open field, as Democrats have for their 2020 presidential nomination, would make it easier for a relatively obscure candidate to surge to the top of the polls. But I'm not actually sure that's true. Democrats might not have an "inevitable" frontrunner — the role that Hillary Clinton played in 2016 or Al Gore did in 2000. But that very lack of heavyweights has encouraged pretty much every plausible middleweight to join the field, or at least to seriously consider doing so. Take the top 10 or so candidates, who are a fairly diverse lot in terms of race, gender and age — pretty much every major Democratic constituency is spoken for by at least one of the contenders. After all, it was the lack of competition that helped Bernie Sanders gain ground in 2016; he was the only game in town other than Clinton.1

So as I cover some of the remaining candidates in this, the third and final installment of our "five corners" series on the Democratic field, you're going to detect a hint of skepticism about most of their chances. (The "five corners" refers to what we claim are the the five major constituencies within the Democratic Party: Party Loyalists, The Left, Millennials and Friends, Black voters and Hispanic voters2; our thesis is that a politician must build a coalition consisting of at least three of these five groups to win the primary.) It's not that some of them couldn't hold their own if thrust into the spotlight against one or two other opponents. Instead, it's that most of them will never get the opportunity to square off against the big names because the middleweights will monopolize most of the money, staff talent and media attention. Rather than pretend to be totally comprehensive, in fact, I'm instead going to list a few broad typologies of candidates that weren't well-represented in the previous installments of this series.

This type of candidate has been popular in the minds of journalists ever since Gary Hart's failed presidential bids in 1984 and 1988 — but it never seems to gain much momentum among actual Democratic voters. In this scenario, a Western governor or senator (e.g. Hart, Bruce Babbitt or Bill Richardson) runs on a platform that mixes environmentalism, slightly libertarianish views on other issues (legal weed but moderate taxes?) and a vague promise to shake things up and bring an outsider's view to Washington.

This platform makes a lot of sense in the Mountain West, but I'm not sure how well it translates elsewhere in the country. In theory, the environmental focus should have some appeal among millennials. (That particularly holds for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who would heavily focus on climate change in his campaign as a means of differentiating himself.) And Party Loyalists might get behind an outsider if they were convinced that it would help beat President Trump, but "let's bring in an outsider to shake things up" was one of the rationales that Trump himself used to get elected, so it doesn't make for as good a contrast in 2020 as it might ordinarily. The Left isn't likely to be on board with the Great Western Hope platform, which tends to be moderate on fiscal policy. And while the states of the Mountain

West have quite a few Hispanic voters, they don't have a lot of black ones. It's not that Inslee or former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper aren't "serious" candidates — being a multi-term governor of medium-sized state is traditionally a good credential — but it's also not clear where the demand for their candidacies would come from.

You might say something similar about the various mayors that are considering a presidential bid.What niche are the mayors hoping to fill, and are there actually any voters there?

Maybe in "The West Wing," a hands-on problem solver from Anytown, USA, would make the perfect antidote to a Trumpian president. In the real world, Democrats think the country is in crisis under Trump, and there are a lot of candidates who have more experience dealing with national problems.

But **Eric Garcetti** and Bill de Blasio, the current mayors of Los Angeles and New York, respectively, have at least had to build complicated coalitions in big, complicated cities — and so they would probably be more viable than the mayors from smaller cities. De Blasio cruised to an easy re-election in New York in 2017 on the basis of support from black, Hispanic and leftist white voters, a coalition that could also be viable in the presidential primary. (De Blasio hasn't taken concrete steps toward a 2020 bid, but he also hasn't ruled one out.) Garcetti, who has what he describes as "Mexican-American-Jewish-Italian" ancestry, could find support for his bid among Hispanic voters.

Bloomberg might belong in a different group, as someone who's not just a former mayor but also fits into the entrepreneur/celebrity/rich person category below and has some of the baggage that comes with that. And unlike de Blasio, Bloomberg wasn't especially popular with nonwhite voters in New York.

This is a group of candidates I'm quite bullish about, by contrast — especially Stacey Abrams, if she runs. In defeating longtime incumbent Joe Crowley in the Democratic primary in New York's 14th Congressional District last year, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who is too young to run for president until next cycle) built a coalition of Hispanics, The Left and millennials. Not that everyone necessarily has Ocasio-Cortez's political acumen, but the potency of this coalition seems rather obvious, in retrospect. Since The Left tends to be pretty white on its own, a Hispanic, black or Asian left-progressive candidate has more potential to build a broader coalition. And millennials, who are sympathetic to left-wing policy positions but also care a lot about diversity, might prefer a Latina or a black woman to an older white man.

In fact, it's not clear why, other than for reasons having to do with her race and gender, Abrams isn't getting more buzz as a potential candidate than Beto O'Rourke. (It's true that Abrams might have designs on Georgia's 2020 Senate race instead of the presidency; it's also true that there wasn't a "Draft Abrams" movement in the same way that influential Democrats almost immediately called on O'Rourke to run for president after his loss to Ted Cruz.) Both performed quite well relative to how Democrats usually do in their states, with Abrams losing to Brian Kemp by 1.4 percentage points in the Georgia governor's race and O'Rourke losing to Cruz by 2.6 points in Texas's Senate race. (Andrew Gillum, who barely lost Florida's governor's race, can't make this claim, since Florida is much more purple than either Georgia or Texas.) Both became huge national stories. And both are lacking in the kind experience that traditionally sets the stage for a presidential run. It's not that I'm down on O'Rourke's chances; the opposite, really (see Part 2 of this series). But if O'Rourke can build a winning coalition from millennials, Hispanics and Party Loyalists, Abrams (or possibly Gillum) could create one from black voters, millennials and The Left.

I'm not going to spend too much on this category because, in practice, both New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe are likely to have a lot of problems if they want to ascend to the presidential stage. Party nominations are not just about building coalitions but also creating consensus, and McAuliffe and Cuomo have probably picked one too many fights with liberals and spent too much time critiquing liberal policy proposals to be tolerable to a large enough share of Democrats to win the nomination. Of the two, Cuomo would probably be the more viable as he's shifted toward his left recently, although he'd still have a lot of work to do to repair his relationship with progressives.

Were it not for their abrasive approaches, the Cuomo and McAuliffe coalitions might be a bit more viable than you might assume. In particular, those coalitions consist of minority voters plus relatively moderate Party Loyalists. Cuomo assembled a similar coalition last September and soundly defeated the more liberal Cynthia Nixon in the Democratic primary for governor before being elected to a third gubernatorial term in November thanks to a landslide 84-14 margin among nonwhite voters.

What about the various billionaires considering a presidential run? Count me as skeptical that a CEO title will impress Democrats. Money has never been terribly predictive of success in the primaries (see e.g. Steve Forbes or Jeb Bush) — and candidates such as former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz and Tom Steyer, the hedge fund billionaire who last week decided that he wouldn't run for president, have fared notably poorly in early surveys of Democrats. And that makes sense, because it's not really clear what sort of Democratic voter they're supposed to be appealing to. The Left is likely to regard the billionaires suspiciously, at best. Nor are rich white men who have never run for office before liable to have a lot of initial success in appealing to black or Hispanic voters. Finally, their timing is poor given that the president is Trump and that the last thing most Democrats will want is another billionaire with no political experience.

Want a billionaire whose chances I'd take seriously? How about Oprah. One three-pronged coalition we haven't discussed yet is one consisting of Black voters, Hispanic voters and Millennials and Friends; a nonwhite celebrity who was able to engage voters that didn't ordinarily participate in primaries3 could potentially win on that basis.

Finally, there are a few people running for president who don't have anything resembling the traditional credentials for doing so, but who at least have pitches that are a little different than what voters will be hearing elsewhere. Tulsi Gabbard, the four-term representative from Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District, was one of Sanders's early endorsers last cycle, but she also has a heterodox set of positions, such as her frequent defenses of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and her former opposition to gay rights, that won't win her fans among any of the traditional Democratic constituencies.

Richard Ojeda, a crew-cut Army veteran and former West Virginia legislator who says he voted for Trump in 2016 and looks the part of a (stereotypical) Trump voter, is presenting what's essentially a left-wing set of economic policies in a very different package than voters would normally to get that message from. I'm not quite sure how the pitch would go over if, say, Ojeda makes it to a debate stage, which might never happen because the Democratic National Committee and the networks might consider him too obscure. But it's worth bearing in mind that The Left is the whitest and most male of the Democratic constituencies, so a candidate who intentionally plays into that identity might not be the best one to build bridges to the rest of the party.

Then there's John Delaney, who decided not to run for re-election to Congress so he could run for president instead — and in fact has already been running for president for well more than a year. He's preaching a message of bipartisanship, which could win him plaudits from the pundits on the Sunday morning shows, but which it's not clear that many actual Democrats are looking for. Instead, more Democrats are willing to identify as "liberal" than had been in the past and fewer say they want a candidate who compromises.

That's all for now! As I mentioned in the first installment of this series, some things we've written here are surely going to seem laughably wrong in retrospect. It wouldn't necessarily have been obvious at this point four years ago that Clinton would do so well with black voters, for example (a group she lost badly to Barack Obama in 2008), or that Sanders would become such a phenomenon among millennials. Fundamentally, however, the U.S. has "big tent" parties, consisting of groups that may not have all that much in common with one another. And so, the nomination process is a coalition-building process. Candidates such as Sanders and Joe Biden, who poll well among one or two groups, may lead in the polls initially. But ultimately the candidate who wins the nomination will be the one who can best bridge the divides between the different constituencies within the party.

Associated Press
Northridge Earthquake Shattered Los Angeles 25 Years Ago

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years ago this week, a violent, pre-dawn earthquake shook Los Angeles from its sleep, and sunrise revealed widespread devastation, with dozens killed and $25 billion in damage.

A look back at the damage, deaths and developments in seismic safety since the disaster:

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THE QUAKE

At 4:31 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1994, a hidden fault lurking under the city's San Fernando Valley neighborhoods unleashed a magnitude 6.7 earthquake that shattered buildings, broke water mains and ignited fires.

The so-called blind thrust fault — one with no surface features to reveal its presence — caused a block of earth to move upward. Most of the energy was released toward mountains that line the northern side of the valley, but there was more than enough energy sent in other directions to cause devastation.

The ground shook horizontally and vertically for up to 10 seconds, most strongly in an area 30 miles (48 kilometers) in diameter around LA's Northridge neighborhood, according to the public-private partnership Earthquake Country Alliance . It was felt as far away as Las Vegas.

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DEATHS AND INJURIES

The state said at least 57 died in the earthquake, though a study issued the following year put the death toll at 72, including heart attacks. About 9,000 were injured.

The greatest concentration of deaths occurred at the Northridge Meadows, a 163-unit apartment complex where 16 people were killed when it collapsed onto the parking area below, crushing first-floor apartments.

The catastrophe at Northridge Meadows revealed a particular seismic hazard due to so-called soft-story construction in which a building's ground level has large open areas for purposes such as parking spots or shop windows.

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DAMAGE

The widespread damage to buildings, freeways and infrastructure made the Northridge quake the costliest U.S. disaster at the time.

According to Earthquake Country Alliance, 82,000 residential and commercial units and 5,400 mobile homes were damaged or destroyed, nine parking structures toppled, nine hospitals were evacuated due to structural or other problems, seven key freeway bridges collapsed, and hundreds more were damaged.

Some 200 steel-frame high-rises sustained cracked welds.

Among vivid images from the quake were scenes of vehicles stranded high on an elevated section of freeway with the road fallen away in front and behind, and the wrecked motorcycle of a police officer who plunged to his death off the end of a broken overpass while rushing to work in the early morning darkness.

The California Department of Transportation, which had already retrofitted many of the bridges that ended up being damaged, would spend hundreds of millions of dollars to further strengthen numerous bridges identified as being at risk.

The damage to hospitals led the state to require strengthening of those buildings.

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LEGACY

Since Northridge there has been a push toward progress — sometimes frustratingly slow — on everything from making buildings safer to increasing society's overall ability to deal with seismic threats.

In 2008, an annual earthquake drill known as the Great ShakeOut began in Southern California to teach the basic safety technique of "drop, cover and hold on." Initially based on a scenario of a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the mighty San Andreas fault, the drill has since spread across the United States and around the world.

In 2015, Los Angeles enacted a mandatory retrofit ordinance aimed at preventing loss of life in major earthquakes at the city's most vulnerable buildings. It covered about 13,500 "soft-story" buildings like Northridge Meadows and some 1,500 buildings with "non-ductile reinforced concrete" construction.

The ordinance, however, allowed a process spanning seven years for retrofitting of soft-story buildings and 25 years for non-ductile reinforced concrete buildings.

Last year, the U.S. Geological Survey announced its fledgling West Coast earthquake early warning system was ready for broad use by businesses, utilities, transportation systems and schools after years of development and testing of prototypes. The system detects the start of an earthquake and sends alerts that can give warnings ranging from several seconds to a minute before shaking arrives, depending on distance from the epicenter. That can be enough time to slow trains, stop industrial processes and allow students to scramble under desks.

This month, Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** unveiled a mobile app that uses the early warning system to alert Los Angeles County residents when there is an earthquake of magnitude 5.0 or greater. Other mobile apps are in development.

Also this month, the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. released a guide aimed at helping businesses minimize disruptions from major earthquakes, taking advantage of information technologies such as the digital cloud to keep a company working even if its physical systems are destroyed or inaccessible.

Thrillist
Everything You Need to Know About the Women's March in LA This Weekend
By: Lizbeth Scordo

It'd be nice if we could say we've solved all of the country's problems since last year's Women's March, but

unfortunately, you know that's far from the case -- so back at it, everyone! The 3rd Annual Women's March LA will take place this Saturday, the same day as hundreds of others around the country and world (including the mother of them all in DC).

As usual, the goals of the Women's Marches are many, including bringing awareness to issues like protecting reproductive freedom; equal pay for equal work; LGBTQ, civil, and immigrant rights; and ending violence against women in addition to registering and educating voters and empowering women to run for office. That's not to say there haven't been huge successes since the first march. In LA alone, the march drew more than a million and a half people over the last two years and those voices are clearly being heard: A record-breaking 100-plus women were elected to Congress last fall, helping to give Democrats control of the house. Despite a news cycle that can feel dismal on a daily basis, who knows what more will be accomplished in the coming year?

First things first, though: Here's everything you know to hit the ground marching this weekend.

When and where does the march start?

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Eric Garcetti #MayorOfLA

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